

Sketch

Big Man Hezza sees off dweebs



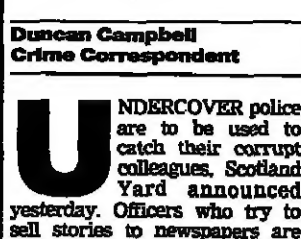
Simon Hoggart

THE Government is crumpling, shearing off into the sea like a Yorkshire hotel. You might think that Tory backbenchers would want to be there on the cliff-top, standing in awe as the residents' lounge disappears, the walls peel away from the bedrooms, and the kitchen range crashes onto the rocks beneath. And so they were yesterday, or at least a few of them. Fully 14 Conservatives turned up for Question Time with Michael Heseltine. And he is one of the two men who are supposed to be running the Government behind the scenes, a sort of semi-detached Rasputin.

ing everyone Handkerchief Vouchers for Christmas. Mr Heseltine had no trouble with the dweebs, so I cleared off to the Upper House, where their Lordships were — as usual — discussing the really important issues of the day. I arrived just too late to catch Jeffrey Archer trying to persuade them to allow him to ask the Queen if she would allow a bill to let a woman inherit the throne, even if she (the unborn princess) was a younger brother. This is not the most urgent legislation before Parliament — it might or might not become relevant when Prince William dies — but it was certainly the most interesting. Naturally the petition was phrased in a way which makes the greatest MP in the Commons sound like Tom Paine: "... that Her Majesty be graciously pleased to allow that Her undoubted Prerogative and interest may not stand in the way of the consideration by Parliament... of any measure providing for the removal of any distinction between the successors in determining the succession to the throne..." Normally these things are nodded through and the Queen, thus grovelled at, allows the bill to be introduced in the certain knowledge that nothing will happen. However, someone muttered "Not content" (the peers' equivalent of "No!" — just as Carnation milk is made from Contented Cows, so Lords' legislation is crafted by Contented Counts).

Metropolitan Police plans hotline to encourage informants to report dishonesty among colleagues

Yard targets corrupt officers



Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

UNDERCOVER police are to be used to catch their corrupt colleagues, Scotland Yard announced yesterday. Officers who try to sell stories to newspapers are also to be targeted. Scotland Yard will also become the first British police force to introduce a confidential hotline called the Right Line — for officers and civilian staff to inform on colleagues.

of the force can voice concerns about colleagues. They said they believed the Metropolitan Police had never been cleaner but added that in any large organisation there was always the possibility of corruption. There had been one or two "worrying signals". Mr Hayes said: "What we're saying is don't turn a blind eye. The Right Line has been set up for any member of staff who is worried about the integrity of colleagues to voice their concerns or suspicions. Where we have reason to be concerned, we will act on this information."

phone interception, said Mr Hayes. Officers may also be deployed in undercover roles impersonating criminals if a case merits it, he said. Both the Crown Prosecution Service and the Police Complaints Authority have been consulted about such tactics. "But we are not going to spray temptation in front of every officer in the Met." The police were also concerned that officers leaked information to the press, some-

times for cash, he said. If such deals were uncovered, both parties would be open to action. Even an officer giving unauthorised information free could be in breach of police regulations, he said. Mr Hayes, who has studied the anti-corruption methods of the New York police, also urged the media to contact the police when they were investigating corruption. Often if a story was published alleging corruption, it minimised the chance of a successful prosecution, said Mr Hayes.

The Police Federation, while supporting efforts to root out corruption, warns in this week's issue of its magazine, Police, of the "dangers of injustice". "It is a scandal if a corrupt officer goes unpunished," says the editorial. "It is equally an outrage when an officer is maliciously accused."

Mike Bennett, the chairman of Metropolitan branch of the federation, said that while he would not object to any means of uncovering corruption, he found it puzzling the initiative was being launched at a time when the Met's reputation for integrity was at its highest. Officers will be given a card with the number of the Right Line on it. It also contains the Edmund Burke quotation: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

20 years of corruption, crackdowns and obstruction at the Met

On June 28, Detective Constable John Donald, 37, of the South East regional crime squad, was jailed for 11 years at the Old Bailey for offering to sell information to criminals.

Complaints Authority was founded, examined complaints about Stoke Newington police station in north east London. Forty-six officers were investigated. One officer from the station was jailed, two others tried and acquitted and one awaits trial.

In 1978, Operation Counterman was launched to look at allegations of corruption within the Met. At the end of the £4 million inquiry in 1982, 41 officers were reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions of whom four were prosecuted and 13 jailed after a clean-up. They had taken protection money from pornographers.

In July 1977, Commander Kenneth Drury of the Flying Squad was jailed for seven years for corruption. In 1976, 74 officers were investigated, 12 resigned, 28 retired, eight were dismissed and 13 jailed after a clean-up. They had taken protection money from pornographers.

Review

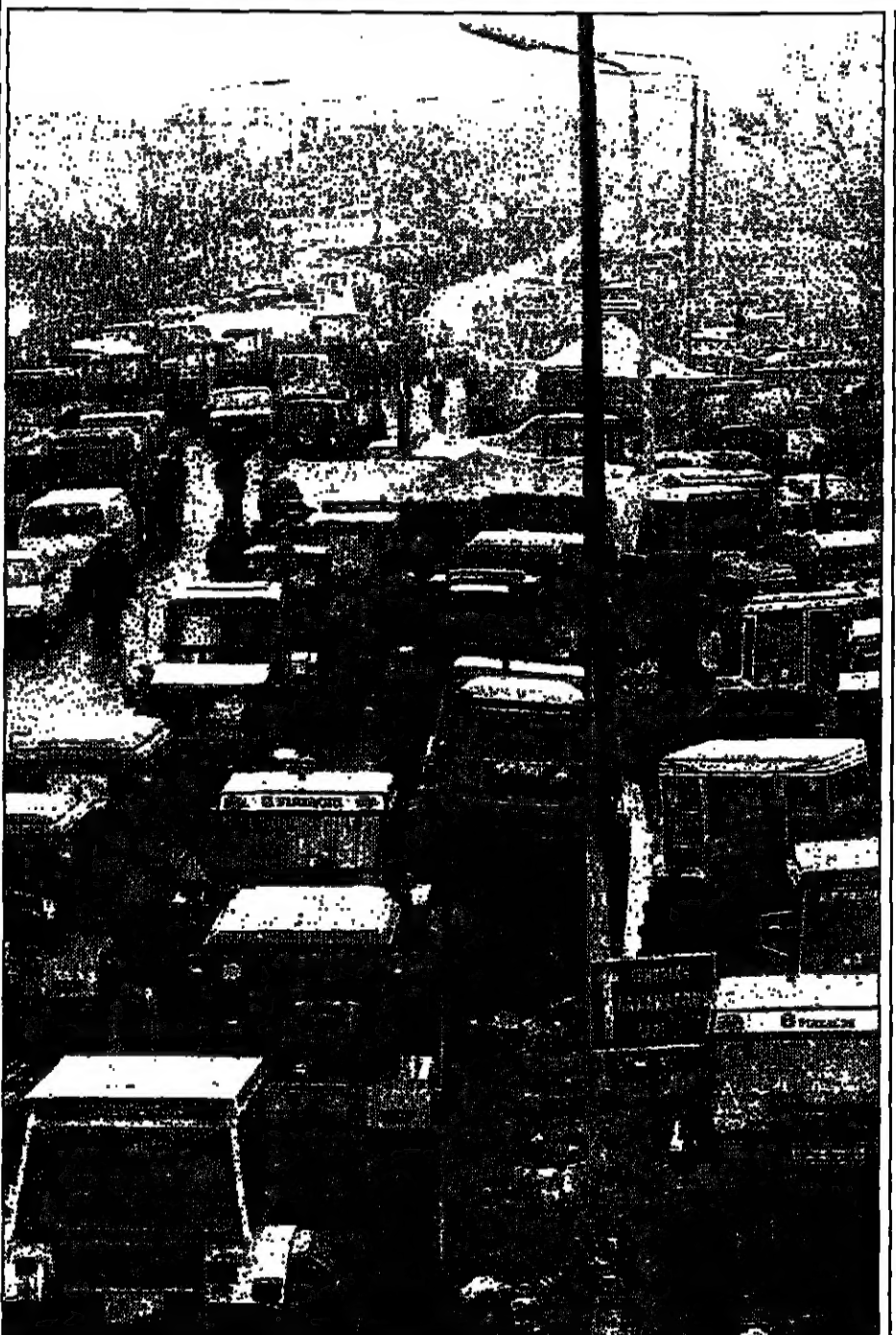
The spirit of Africa survives formality

Robin Deneslow

Self-Kelita and Others: Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Barbican, London

FOURTEEN years on from the first Womad show, out in a field in Shepton Mallett, the world's best-known purveyor of world music festivals has finally got round to putting on a series of concerts in London. It ought to be expert by now — after all, over a million people have attended its shows in 18 countries — but this still felt like an experiment. It worked, just about, but only because of the quality of the music, not the staging.

mostly African — though one notable exception was the Tibetan singer Yungchen Lhamo, who escaped across the Himalayas from the Chinese occupation seven years ago, and whose unaccompanied laments for her homeland were even more powerful live than on record. As for the Africans, they were here to have a good time and show off their expertise in anything from the most traditional to the most hi-tech styles. Hukwe Zzwo, a national hero back home in Tanzania where he runs a college dedicated to preserving the country's musical traditions, is a good-natured entertainer who demonstrated extraordinary skill on a whole range of local instruments, and an even more remarkable five-octave vocal range.



Hundreds of tractors in Larissa, central Greece (pictured above), were not budging yesterday, the twelfth day of road blockades by Greek farmers that have brought chaos to international and domestic transport. The government has rejected their demands for higher subsidies. British drivers are among hundreds trapped

Mary Leakey, renowned fossil hunter, dies at 83

Greg Barrow and Agencies in Nairobi

MARY LEAKEY, the archaeologist who found footprints which testify to the earliest origins of man, died in the Kenyan capital Nairobi yesterday, aged 83. Her discovery of the footprints in 1978, embedded in volcanic ash at Laetoli in Tanzania, revealed how hominids had stood up on the plains and walked upright more than 1 million years earlier than was believed.



Leakey: first to put flesh on bones of dusty archaeology

site to another like butterflies. "My sense is that no person has ever made a more significant contribution to the understanding of the pre-history of man through work in east Africa." Although Louis Leakey is often credited with the discovery of the most important bone artefacts associated with the evolution of man, experts and family friends insist that Mary played the more telling role in their joint archaeological quest into the origins of mankind. "Mary was the centrepiece of the research," said Richard Leakey. "Louis was always a better publicist than scientist," said E. Barton Worthington, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the first scientist to explore Kenya's Lake Turkana in the 1920s. "Mary was the real fossil hunter."

Radio 1 boss sleighs Christmas favourites

Andrew Cuff on a pop station's change of seasonal tune to woo younger listeners



Frozen out... Old timers Cliff Richard and Wizzard

DO THEY Know It's Christmas? Not at Radio 1, it would appear where party hats, Christmas crackers and mince pies are this year destined to be in short supply. Seasonal classics, including Slade's Merry Christmas Everybody and John Lennon's Happy Christmas (War is Over), have been banished from the airwaves by Trevor Dann, Radio 1's playlist chief. Programme makers have been sent an abrupt memo by Tracey Lloyd, assistant head of Radio 1's production department, saying: "There will not be a sleigh list."

The missing hits Hits you won't hear... Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, Bruce Springsteen I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day, Wizzard Happy Christmas (War is Over), John Lennon and Yoko Ono Fairytale of New York, The Pogues with Kirsty McColl

... and those you don't want to Merry Christmas, Everybody, Slade Mistletoe and Wine, Cliff Richard Do They Know It's Christmas?, Band Aid Mary's Boy Child, Boney M Last Christmas, Wham White Christmas, Bing Crosby

Parents of children with asthma face 'exploitation'

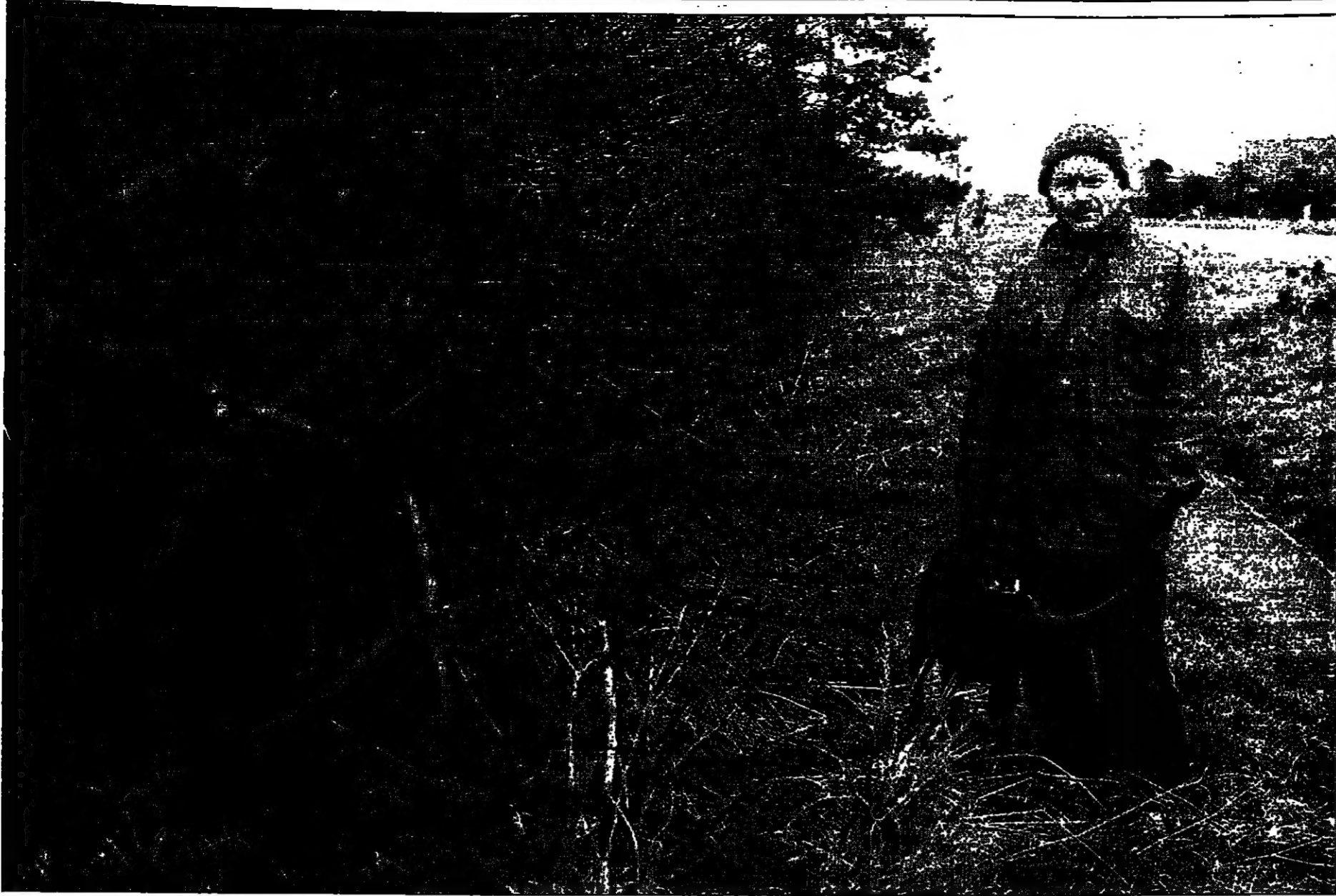
Chris Millish

PEOPLE with asthma and particularly parents of children with the illness are being exploited by the manufacturers of devices such as air filters and vacuum cleaners with emotive advertisements claiming these can reduce symptoms, the Consumers' Association and the

National Asthma Campaign warn today. "The Consumers' Association has reported the claims made for five products to the Advertising Standards Authority. A report in the association's magazine Health Which?, compiled with the National Asthma Campaign, says medicinal claims for the products would be disallowed if they were for food.

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Campaigner Colin Seymour, with his dog Fred, beside the ancient hawthorn hedge that he is trying to protect from uprooting by Flamborough parish council.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD WALKER

Disillusioned homeowners back council house revival

Charlotte Denny and Sarah Ryle

THE Conservatives have left their core Middle England constituency of homeowners who send their children to private schools feeling disillusioned and insecure, research published today shows.

Nine out of ten homeowners, many of whom cashed in on the Tories' right-to-buy scheme for council tenements, are now so scarred by the collapse of the housing market they want the Government to invest more in the safety net of social housing, according to a study for the Economic and Social Research Council.

One first-time buyer in the survey of 800 householders said that those who had suffered most in the housing market were those who could least afford it. "You can't give people the dream of their own home and then walk away when it all goes wrong."

Over half those surveyed thought that owning a home was a burden, and most said that they regarded their house as a home rather than an investment. Recent buyers did not expect to make a profit, while those who had made money during the boom period argued that the profit existed only on paper: any gains had gone into buying their next home.

The report also shows support for more funds for state education from parents who send their children to fee-paying schools.

Forty-six per cent would make more government spending on education a top priority, compared to just 31 per cent in the state sector. The findings are part of a research programme carried out by the ESRC on attitudes towards the welfare state.

Researchers from Social and Community Planning Research and the Institute for Fiscal Studies said there was widespread support for increased government spending in education — even if it means higher taxes.

Although the property owning democracy shows little sign of extinction, strong support for social housing suggested widespread pessimism and insecurity, said Professor Moira Munro of Herriot Watt University, who led the research on homeowners.

She said that owners felt let down by the Government. Most felt they had been encouraged to buy their own house during the 1980s but that the Government had failed to live up to its side of the bargain by providing security and prosperity.

Most people are now expecting interest rates to rise and tax relief on mortgages to be cut further, making home loans more expensive. Changes in income support rules and the lowering of tax relief on mortgages had also made owning a house less attractive.

Two-fifths of those surveyed thought that buying a house had become more risky in the past three years. First time buyers were less pessimistic than other groups, but even among this group a sizable minority thought the market was more risky now than in 1991. Despite this, most people remain committed to owning their own home — and would advise others to do the same.

Council housing

The Government should expand council housing, %

Strongly agree	61
Tend to agree	25
Neutral	6
Tend to disagree	4
Strongly disagree	4

Source: ESRC

80-win amateur frightens lawyers

New victory for ex-teacher could change the landscape writes Martin Wainwright

BITAIN'S nimblest amateur lawyer is hoping to win the second Battle of Flamborough Head today, with consequences which could leave the Government even more embarrassed than its predecessors 200 years ago. One man, environmental-law machine Colin Seymour, aged 63, who has triumphed in 80 landscape protection cases over two decades, may trigger a change in the whole country's hedgerow protection system on the basis of a 1785 Yorkshire enclosure act. The precisely-worded measure, requiring parish council upkeep of a Flamborough hawthorn hedge "forever" to protect local flora and birds, was passed 16 years before the father of the US Navy, Commodore Paul Jones,

trounced a larger British fleet below Flamborough's Limestone cliffs. "This case could see a similar come-uppance for the establishment," said Pete Fowler of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. "The issue is vital, because in spite of Government promises to introduce legal protection, hundreds of miles of hedgerow are being lost every year." Mr Seymour, a former teacher who is now considered the national expert on aspects of enclosure law and the highways act, has a fearsome reputation among professional lawyers who face his theoretically amateur presentations in court. The Department of the Environment is awaiting the result of today's hearing at Hull county court before proceeding with national protec-

tion measures for 40,000 miles of hedge. The Flamborough battle involves 56 yards of ancient hawthorn which the cliff-top village's parish council wants to uproot to complete a bowling green. Mr Seymour, who lives in the village and has been unemployed for 10 years, was contacted by neighbours who felt that both hedge and bowling could exist side-by-side. His discovery of the local enclosure act is mirrored, potentially, by thousands of similar documents imposed by 18th century courts as landlords and farmers divided up common land. He warned the parish council that the ancient order meant its duty to preserve the stunted trees was fundamental and without limit of time. He is reserving comment on the issue until after the hearing, but recalled how his para-legal career began with an epic defence against the National Coal Board. Determined to crush his opposition to open-cast mining near his

then home at Methley, Leeds, the NCB launched a doomed £30 million compensation action to scare him out of court. "I was on social security at the time," said Mr Seymour, who left school at 15 but subsequently gained degrees from Leeds and the Open universities. "I studied old documents, got interested in the law and realised that the courts were much more effective than marches or sit-ins." The next 75 cases proved the point. Although outnumbering Mr Seymour, Flamborough parish council is beginning to feel more like David than Goliath, although plenty of villagers are on its side. Parish clerk Gordon Scrowston said: "We only wanted to build four bowling lines on some vacant allotments, which would be an asset for the village, but it would mean taking up some hedge. Then Mr Seymour came along and issued a summons against us. Unless he fails, we can't have a bowling club."

Case history

1981: Won five prosecutions against British Coal in Morley magistrates' court, West Yorkshire, under the 1980 Highways Act, over tipping of colliery spoil. Maximum fines imposed and BC paid £100,000 to restore a road.

1981/86: After 10 hearings in West Yorkshire crown courts, based on Latin document of 1472, obliged British Waterways, British Coal, the former West Yorkshire Metropolitan county council and its successor Leeds city council to restore an old road and two destroyed bridges at a combined cost of £300,000.

1987: Compelled Leeds city council to take action against Mercantile and General Reinsurance to reopen rights of way on Parlington Lane and Fly Line which had been illegally blocked by gates, wire and armed gamekeepers.

1994/96: Forced Humber-side county council to repair ancient bridleway from York to Danes' Dyke near Flamborough under Section 56 of 1980 Highways Act. Council warned before hearing that bill would be £500,000 but after judgment put cost at £1,000-2,000. "The second figure is nearer to what they paid," he says.

1995: served Section 56 notice on Humber-side county council regarding Sands Lane, Bepton, scene of a 15-year dispute and public inquiry over compulsory purchase order alleging unknown ownership. Mr Seymour traced owners via 1843 enclosure document, 1845 railway plans and title map, 1910 finance act records (in Public Records Office) and House of Lords debates. His research took five days; the council had spent "thousands of pounds".

'Whispering' Sir John appointed to Order of Merit

Kamal Ahmed
SIR JOHN Gielgud, widely regarded as Britain's most distinguished actor, was yesterday appointed to the Order of Merit by the Queen. The appointment is one of the highest honours in the gift of Buckingham Palace. There are only 24 members at any one time plus a handful of foreign honorary appointees, including Mother Teresa and, formerly, General Dwight Eisenhower, the Allied commander in the second world

war who went on to become American president. Sir John joins Dame Joan Sutherland, Baroness Thatcher and Isiah Berlin, the political philosopher, who are also members of the Order. Among the famous past members were Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Edward Elgar, the composer, and Florence Nightingale. Each member is allowed to wear the order medal, crossed oak leaves with blue and crimson ribbons signifying long and distinguished service.

"I am very surprised and very much honoured," said Sir John, from his home near Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire. Sir John, whose famous whispering voice was once described by Sir Alec Guinness as "a silver trumpet muffled in silk", gave up the stage in 1988 but says he is still seen on small roles in films and television, despite being 92. His most recent effort, as a piano teacher in the Australian film *Shine*, has just been released in Sydney and is due in Britain next year.

A spokeswoman for his agent's office in London said that he was not at present considering any other roles. "I get very tired," the actor said recently. "I have to ration myself and only work certain hours." He said that when considering death, "people see it as an indecent race between me, the Pope and Boris Yeltsin" and that he did not take long roles for fear of keeling over in the middle of filming. Sir John, who was awarded a knighthood in 1963 and has a theatre named after him in Shaftesbury Avenue, was ap-

pointed to the Order after the death of Sir Frank Whittle, the pioneer jet engine who died in the United States in August. Sir Frank had been a member since 1965. The Order of Merit was founded in 1902 by Edward VII and is given to those who have, in the words of Buckingham Palace, "rendered exceptionally meritorious service towards the advancement of the arts, learning, literature and science". Sir John Mills, another giant of British theatre, said last night: "It's brilliant news and well deserved."



Sir John Gielgud... 'surprised and honoured'

EU leaders fuel Major's woes

continued from page 1
line and said it was quite likely the first wave of potential euro-members would be ready by then. He repeatedly insisted that the deadline was the least important part of the project and cast doubt on its feasibility for many of the EU states, the "Judge" scenario which sceptic ministers believe will allow Mr Clarke to join them in denouncing the whole project before election day. EU finance ministers are to meet in Dublin on Thursday, the eve of the EU summit, in an attempt to cobble together a deal. Mr Kohl said both countries hoped to table a joint Franco-German proposal on the stability pact. But the war of words on the fringes of yesterday's Nuremberg summit highlighted the worsening friction between the two key European powers, despite the attempt to put on a show of unity and common purpose.

While the French prime minister, Alain Juppé, came close to describing Bundesbank-style control of monetary policy as undemocratic, the Bavarian prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, urged Germany to walk away from the single currency unless the rest of Europe agreed to Bonn's insistence on a rigorous stability pact entailing "quasi-automatic" fines for fiscal reprobates. Germany is isolated on this point, but reluctant to back down. In a newspaper interview, Mr Stoiber used scare tactics, warning that ordinary Germans' savings would be devalued if Bonn caved in to the demands in France and elsewhere for a more relaxed single currency regime. Mr Juppé, by contrast, described the German campaign as favouring "a technocratic, automatic system under the sole authority of the European central bank. That is not our concept of democracy."

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'Harmless' loner who admired mass killers

Vivek Chaudhary on the life of a man who set upon children with machete

HORRETT Campbell was known by his nickname of Aiysha in the inner city neighbourhood of Wolverhampton where he had lived all his life. But few who saw him walking the streets of Blakenhall or who lived in the same tower block needed to use the nickname he gave himself. Del, aged 31, who went to the same school, said: "He was always on his own and hardly ever said anything. Sometimes I'd just nod and say hello and he'd say hello back, but that was about as far as our conversations got."

Campbell, who was convicted of attempted murder at Stafford crown court yesterday after the machete attack on three children and four women at St Luke's school in July, was described by neighbours as a loner. He often walked the streets of Blakenhall, muttering to himself. He liked tinkering with his orange-painted Volvo, having the odd drink alone in local pubs and smoking marijuana. According to neighbours, he would sometimes lend out his car in exchange for marijuana or money for petrol. They did not see him as someone who wanted to join the ranks of mass killers like Thomas Hamilton in Dunblane and Martin Bryant, who ran amok in Tasmania. Marjia Ballantine, aged 26, a former neighbour of Campbell, said: "He's a bit slow, but he was quite popular because he always said hello and always spent his time messing about with his car. He didn't talk very much unless you started a conversation."



Lisa Potts, one of Horrett Campbell's victims, in hospital after the attack. The judge praised her bravery in shielding children PHOTOGRAPHY CHARLES BISSY

brought up in Blakenhall, comes from a devout Christian family. His father, Isaac, regularly attended St Luke's Church in Blakenhall until illness made him housebound. Campbell left Colton Hills comprehensive school at 16, without qualifications. Former classmates say he was quiet in class, took little interest in his studies and socialised with younger pupils. After leaving school he worked as a welder with an engineering firm and then as a painter and decorator for six years. He has been unemployed since 1989, and lack of money and job prospects made him increasingly frustrated. Police and neighbours say

he became more of an eccentric recluse after his mother, Rebekah, died four years ago in Jamaica. He could not afford to attend the funeral. He moved from the family home to the sixth floor of Villiers House tower block and took to walking the streets and talking to himself. His sister, Cheryl, also left home and now lives in the US. Isaac, aged 64, is still in the Wolverhampton area. Friends say the whole family found it hard to come to terms with the mother's death.

Darren, who said he had known the Campbell family for 20 years, said: "I think Horrett felt it more than the others. He went even further into his own world." A man called Buzz said Campbell "started losing his senses a bit" when his mother died. "He would mumble to himself and began stuttering when he spoke. "He was harmless though. Something must have built up inside him to do something like this. He would walk around with a glazed look in his eyes, and I must admit he would scare you."

Campbell sought solace in horror and science fiction films — and in the actions of the two mass killers, whom he came to admire and empathise with. He saw Hamilton as an "oddball" like him, treated as an outsider. Asked at the trial why he launched the machete attack, Campbell replied: "I felt sort of angry."

'Horrett felt his mother's death more... and he went further into his own world'

Food poisoning outbreak claims its 10th victim

Erlend Clouston

SCOTLAND'S food poisoning epidemic recorded its tenth victim yesterday as the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, again questioned the behaviour of the butcher linked to the outbreak. The death of an 87-year-old Bonnybridge woman was revealed by Mr Forsyth as he addressed the Scottish Grand Committee in Hamilton, home of the hard-pressed Lanarkshire health board. The pensioner, the fourth fatality from the Forth Valley health board area — had died late on Sunday after a weekend transfer to Glasgow's Stobhill hospital. Scotland has 390 patients showing symptoms of E. coli infection, of whom 209 are

confirmed cases. Doctors are worried about 25 of the 42 adults and seven children who remain in hospital. In separate incidents in the Borders region, one person was confirmed yesterday as having died as a result of E. coli, with another three ill. Doctors have still to establish whether another Borders person who died last week was in fact infected with E. coli. No connection with the Lanarkshire cases has been found. In his statement to Scottish MPs, Mr Forsyth rejected opposition demands for a public inquiry, pointing out that a fatal accident inquiry had already been commissioned. Presenting a timetable of events, Mr Forsyth confirmed that Wishaw butcher John Barr had allowed a customer to buy cold meat after earlier agreeing to council and

health board officials' requests that he withdraw it from sale. "The circumstances in which this meat was supplied are being investigated by police, and I do not propose to risk compromising that process by commenting further," he said. Mr Forsyth also revealed it took until December 6 — a fortnight after the outbreak was notified — for health inspectors to track down all Mr Barr's customers. The shadow Scottish secretary, George Robertson, accused Mr Forsyth of "undignified and improper" behaviour in letting the council and health board take the blame for the controversial decision to delay issuing a list of suspect outlets. Mr Forsyth repeated his claim that the decision had been taken locally.

Too-fast music could cost nightclubs their licences

Alex Bellis

NIGHTCLUBS face losing their licences if disc jockeys play music that is too fast, under safety guidelines backed by the Home Office. They have a duty to play slow songs if dancers are getting "over-excited or exhausted", says the document, launched today, but they should change tempo gradually. The code of practice, which will become part of the Home Office's model licence conditions for clubs, comes in response to recent ecstasy-related fatalities. Between 50 and 100 people are believed to have died after taking the drug, mostly by overbeating or liver or heart failure. Other rules set out in the guidelines, drawn up by the London Drug Policy Forum, include: Drinking water must be free and easily accessible

Drugs awareness messages should be incorporated into flyers advertising dance. Information should also be sent through the club's mailing list. Clubs should have "chill-out areas" where dancers can cool down. All staff should be trained in recognising drugs-related problems. Bouncers should be registered. Peter Rigby, LDPF chairman, said: "The overriding purpose of the code is to stop people dying. We know that young people will take drugs. It is vital that we do all in our power to keep them safe." Many measures to stop overcrowding and overheating have already been adopted by clubs, but the guidelines are the first to put conditions on the type of music and style of DJ-ing. It may compromise many clubs, especially those whose appeal is in playing fast music non-stop.

'Dreadful' injuries inflicted on murdered pensioner

Geoffrey Gibbs

APENSIONER who be- friended children died from "dreadful injuries" after a screwdriver was forced through his nose into his brain, Truro crown court heard yesterday. Three teenage boys deny murdering Douglas Holman, aged 72, who was stated to have been attacked in his home in Camberne, Cornwall, last January. Mr Holman, a former male nurse who shared the house with his reclusive niece, was found in his armchair, covered in blood and unable to move. He died of a heart attack in the ambulance taking him to hospital.

The accused boys, who were aged 16 and 14 at the time of Mr Holman's death, cannot be named for legal reasons. The prosecution has rejected the eldest boy's plea of guilty to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. Stuart Jones, prosecuting, told the jury that the two younger boys knew "perfectly well" what was going to happen when they went to Mr Holman's house. The court heard Mr Holman described as a "harmless and amiable creature", who was fond of young children and enjoyed their company. "We say there was nothing untoward about that, no suggestion he was a paedophile," said Mr Jones.

"Hard pressed mothers used him as an unofficial baby sitting arrangement and used to send their children to him when they wanted to work." On the day of Mr Holman's death, a Saturday, his niece had been watching television in an adjacent room with her mother, brother and sister. They had heard noises of visitors entering the house but had not taken any notice because there were always so many young people visiting. "We say that it was Douglas who suffered the dreadful injuries from which he died later that day. He was stabbed through the eye and up the nose with probably two screwdrivers." The trial continues.

As party turmoil worsens one Tory appears happier than ever

These days the Redwood grin just gets wider

Ewen MacAskill on how the scorecard reads in the Conservatives' Euro wars

JOHNSON Redwood, once the most serious-looking member of the Cabinet, uneasy with the concept of a joke, has developed over the last week a huge smile, wandering round the Westminster lobbies, stopping to chat to groups of would-be supporters among the party's Eurosceptics. Those close to Mr Redwood say that he has been happy since the day he left Cabinet 18 months ago to challenge John Major for the party leadership. But the smile has definitely become wider, his whole composure one of a man at ease with himself, enjoying himself (not least over Mr Major's discomfort). Mr Redwood's friends be-

lieve he has come out best in the party revolt last week over the Government's European policy and that he has established himself as the favourite for the post-election leadership contest, assuming (as just about everyone at Westminster does) that Labour wins. One of his supporters said yesterday: "When the day of reckoning comes, Michael Howard, Michael Fortillo and Peter Lilley will be remembered as the Vichy Tories. They are the Tories who did nothing during a decisive week." Just as Michael Heseltine did the rubber chicken supper run for years in preparation for his challenge against



John Redwood looks every inch the happy man.

Margaret Thatcher. Mr Redwood has been speaking at four to five constituency associations a week. Last night, he addressed the 92 Group, the loose rightwing group of MPs, which includes Sir George Gardiner, who at the weekend threatened to resign the party whip over Europe.

He spoke about public services, from education through to investment in London Underground. But he will return to Europe in the two-day Commons debate which begins tomorrow. About half the Conservative MPs are Eurosceptic, ranging from those who want to leave the European Union

through to those who want to make it a looser market. The most extreme are the nine who had the whip withdrawn last year, including Teresa Gorman, Tony Marlow and Sir Teddy Taylor. A fellow Eurosceptic described them yesterday as the "uncontrollables". This point was reinforced by Mrs Gorman yesterday when she ignored Mr Major's warning that in-fighting could cause an early election and announced she will put forward a referendum bill, which will go nowhere but provides an opportunity for Tory Eurosceptics to provide a show of strength early in the new year. The Eurosceptics are not easily classifiable. Bill Cash, for instance, keeps his distance from the "uncontrollables", while Michael Spicer, though sceptical, is different again, trying to work with the Government. There are heavyweights such as David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned from the Government over Europe earlier this year, and the former chancellor, Norman Lamont, another sceptic, who came close in a party conference speech to advocating complete withdrawal. Apart from Mrs Gorman's

referendum bill, Tory dissidents also have a platform in this week's European Commons debate and in a fishing vote next week, when they will join with the Opposition to defeat the Government. Despite the optimism of Mr Redwood's supporters about his leadership chances, some of the most prominent Eurosceptics that he might include in his fold are still intent privately on backing one of the other potential candidates, such as Mr Howard. Mr Redwood made a huge tactical error 18 months ago when he launched his leadership campaign by being identified with the "uncontrollables". He has since distanced himself. One of his supporters insisted yesterday that he had succeeded in moving himself to the centre. "He will use the next few days to show the rest of the parliamentary party and the media that the Conservative Party is united on the issue of Europe and it is for the Prime Minister to come round to backing the party on this." That sounds ominous for Mr Major and his hopes of an end to what he called the "savage disputes" that could force the party into an early general election.



Altyнай Asymuratova, who will dance the principal role

English dancers 'not well trained'

Dan Gjalster Arts Correspondent

THE artistic director of the English National Ballet attacked British dance training yesterday at the launch of the company's new production of Swan Lake, due to be staged at the Royal Albert Hall, London, in May. "I can't find 60 dancers in London for Swan Lake," said Derek Deane. "I wish I could. There is a great lack of good training in this country. We're not producing good English dancers yet there are hundreds of dance schools." Mr Deane, also artistic director of the English National Ballet school, said much of the school's work was devoted to repairing damage already done to young dancers. "We don't train in our school, we mend dancers," he said. "It is very difficult to change bad habits and bad training. It's a sad situation but training is not good from the top schools to the bottom." Mr Deane's comments will be addressed today when the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET) releases a list of accredited dance schools, an attempt to standardise dance training. The previous list included 22 accredited schools. It is understood today's list will be smaller. The CDET's work has caused controversy

within the dance world. The problem of dance training is linked to funding for dance courses. The new list will be produced in tandem with the Arts Council's Initiative on funding for dance and drama training, which aims to use National Lottery money to fund students. But Patrick Deuchar, chief executive of the Royal Albert Hall, criticised the idea. "The lottery initiative is just dabbling. What is needed is a wholehearted overhaul of funding and training." For Swan Lake, six of the principals will be foreign dancers, including Altyнай Asymuratova, the prima ballerina of the Kirov Ballet. Mr Deane's remarks come in the wake of a report released last month criticising dancers' fitness and training. The report, Fit To Dance?, by the Gulbenkian Foundation, noted that 83 per cent of dancers suffered injury in any 12-month period. The injuries were due to overwork, excessive demands of choreographers, punishing rehearsals, poor teaching, cold theatres and unsprung floors. The £2 million production of Swan Lake will feature more than 120 dancers and will be performed in the round with no sets. "I want to theatricalise the production," said Mr Deane. "It will feature acrobats, fire-eaters and jugglers. I'm looking at it as a ballet on film."

Why some Tories believe they can fudge differences

Michael White on how even Kenneth Clarke may conclude that single currency is a fiddle

Some Tory Eurosceptic MPs and ministers believe they can judge their differences over the single currency by agreeing that Britain's EU partners have failed to meet the Maastricht criteria they set themselves in 1991. Q: Those Maastricht criteria, run them past me again, will you, squire. We don't get much call for them in conversation down at the Dog and Partridge. A: You will as 1999 approaches if the French and Germans stay serious about launching the new euro on time. What they do is set specific monetary targets which prospective members of the

single currency club have to meet to qualify. They were agreed as part of the Maastricht Treaty deal in December 1991 and were originally intended to launch the single currency in 1997, not 1999, if a majority of member states were ready. But they weren't. Q: So far so boring. Why bother? A: The idea is that the EU's economies must have converged, that's the jargon word, enough to make sure a single currency would work. In other words Germany doesn't want to trade the mighty mark for a dodgy drachma or a Latino lira, let alone bail out Italy's debt. Q: Very wise of those Ger-

mans, I'm sure. But how does it affect me or my little brother, Maurice's, car showroom? A: Well, by most tests the Maastricht criteria are considered rather deflationary. Each member state's inflation rate must be no higher than 1.5 per cent above the average of the three lowest in the EU. Interest rates must be no higher than 2 per cent above the three lowest. As for exchange rates, applicants' rates must stay within agreed exchange rate mechanism (ERM) bands, and be an ERM member without realignment or devaluation of the currency for two years. Q: Blimey, that sounds nasty. I thought John Major had an opt-out from all this. And didn't Britain fall out of the ERM back in 1992, about the time Mau-

rice's new car sales picked up... A: He does have an opt-out, but if the euro becomes Europe's biggest success since Charlemagne, we might have to sign on, whatever the sceptics say, in case the currency speculator turns nasty on sterling. As for the ERM, John Major says it collapsed in 1993, so no problem there. Others disagree. Q: What about unemployment figures? Aren't they proper criteria? A: No one talks about Euro-unemployment except the Swedes and Robin Cook. It's too high even to mention. Q: So where's the fiddle come in? A: Hang on. I haven't finished. Applicants' budget deficits (PSBR) have to be no higher than 3 per cent of GDP, that's about £18 billion on the

UK's 560 billion GDP. And national debt, what the country owes, would have to be no higher than 60 per cent of GDP. Q: You mean taxes would have to go up, squire, or public spending down to get the figures right? A: That's it, Major, Lamont and Our Ken have almost doubled the debt, but should scrape home on that test. But they've been running a PSBR between 4 and 8 per cent since the recession, though it will be down to £19 billion next year, just inside 3 per cent. In theory. Q: How are the other lot doing? A: Glad you asked. They're squawking their public sectors hard and engaged in creative accountancy to meet all five criteria. Greek and French lorry drivers have been block-

ading roads in protest. German spending is being cut. The Italians have just been loaded with another special one-off tax to ease the deficit gap. Paris is using a windfall sale of France Telecom pension debt. The Dutch are raiding their reserves. Don't even ask about Belgium... Q: Lots of fiddles, Maurice would understand... A: Exactly. Helmut Kohl might tolerate a little corner-cutting to fulfil his dream, but the Bundesbank wouldn't. The idea here is that even Clarke think the euro would be a costly waste of time if the whole project is so contrived that it rapidly falls apart. Q: So Whitehall cooks up a report, crocodile tears and all, regrettably denouncing the whole caper... A: That's the idea.

صبراً من الامل

News in brief

City youth face homeless future

ABOUT one in 20 young people in Britain's cities will be homeless at some stage in a year, the YMCA said yesterday. The estimate included those sleeping rough, staying in hostels or living with friends as temporary "guests" but the figure rose to one in 10 when taking into account those in overcrowded or insecure accommodation.

TV man wins RUC damages

THE producer of a television programme alleging collusion between Royal Ulster Constabulary officers and loyalist terrorists yesterday received undisclosed libel damages from Express Newspapers which suggested his claim that he feared his life was in danger was untrue.

Student gets meningitis

AN unnamed 18-year-old student from Birmingham university has been taken ill with meningitis and admitted to Selly Oak hospital. A spokesman for the university said: "She has a meningococcal version of the disease, but we don't know which strain."

Junior doctor killed herself

A JUNIOR doctor injected a fatal dose of insulin directly into her stomach because work and exam pressure became too much, West Yorkshire coroner's court heard yesterday. Pauline Watson, aged 27, whose father is also a doctor, was found in a coma on the morning she was due to fly to Dublin to sit her Part II anaesthetics exam and died three days later in St James's hospital, Leeds.

Cancer surgeon struck off

A SURGEON who mistakenly removed the healthy part of a stomach and intestines of a 75-year-old cancer victim in what was supposed to have been a routine colon operation was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and had his name removed from the medical register yesterday.

Wetland sites drying put

MORE than 200 wetland sites and 100 rivers are drying out as a result of over-abstraction of water for drinking or irrigation purposes, according to a group of environmental organisations. Among them is the Falls of Clyde in South Lanarkshire, the home of otters, where the famous Corra Linn falls have been reduced to a trickle.



The QE2 undergoing a refit and repaint at Southampton, where specialists have been working on the vessel around the clock

PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Met police fight £220,000 damages

Court of Appeal asked to issue guidelines on scale of awards

ALAN TRAVIS Home Affairs Editor SCOTLAND Yard launched an Appeal Court battle yesterday to end the stream of big compensation payouts for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and assault.

Hairdresser punched, kicked and left to make own way home

THE name of London hairdresser Kenneth Hsu, aged 32, tops the list of nine cases involving exemplary damages totalling £1.3 million that the Metropolitan police are challenging, writes Alan Travis.

Police misconduct

Civil actions against the Met 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996

Duchess pips Thickhead as the Turkey of the Year

Kamal Ahmed SHE has suffered a pasting at the hands of the press and now a basting at the hands of the British Turkey Federation.



Roasted 1995: Paula Yates for showing off about her breast enlargements and having children with silly names.

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Paranoia in heat of the cold war

The Soviet pilot who shot down a Korean airliner in 1983 is convinced the plane was on a spying mission. **Michael Gordon** in Moscow reports

GENNADY Osipovich holds up his thick hands to show how, 13 years ago, he manoeuvred his SU-15 fighter to blast a Korean 747 airliner out of the sky. It was the morning of September 1, 1983, and Lieutenant-Colonel Osipovich's unit had scrambled from its secret base on Sakhalin Island to investigate an intruder. He intercepted the unidentified plane about 95 miles from Soviet airspace. After trailing it for more than 60 miles, he zoomed alongside to take a look. "I was just next to him, on the same altitude, 150 to 200 metres away," he recalls. He recognised the aircraft as a civilian type of plane. "I saw two rows of windows and knew that this was a Boeing."

I knew this was a civilian plane. But for me this meant nothing. It is easy to turn a civilian type of plane into one for military use. Minutes later, he fired two air-to-air missiles, sending Korean Airlines Flight 007 crashing into the sea, killing 269 people and causing what President Boris Yeltsin has described as the greatest tragedy of the cold war. Thirteen years on, debate still rages over whether the Soviet air force showed a reckless disregard for human life and why the Korean jet, en route from Anchorage to Seoul, was so far off course. Speaking at the weekend, Mr Osipovich insisted that the jetliner was on a spying mission and that there were no civilians on board. For years, experts have debated whether the Soviet pilot

was aware he was downing a civilian plane or had mistaken the 747 for an RC-135 United States military reconnaissance plane. But Mr Osipovich said he had no doubts that he was dealing with a civilian plane. Viewed through the prism of the cold war, he treated the plane not as a lost commercial airliner but as part of a nefarious mission against the Soviet homeland. Mr Osipovich also revealed that, in the heat of the moment, he did not provide a full description of the intruder to ground controllers. "They did not ask me." He did, however, tell them that the plane had blinking lights, which he took as an indication that it could be a transport plane. Disputing reports that he urged his superiors to be cau-

tious, Mr Osipovich said he was prepared to shoot the plane down as soon as it crossed into Soviet airspace and still regrets that he was not allowed to do so. "I asked the ground what to do," he said. "They got scared and told me to force him to land, and this was our big mistake." If the plane had crashed on Soviet territory, he said, the authorities would have recovered proof that it was on a spying mission. To try to force the plane down he fired his cannon three times, shooting off 530 rounds. But the shells did not contain tracers and were not visible at night. He said the Korean pilots still should have seen the gun flashing and also noticed when the SU-15 flashed its lights. That, he said, was a signal to follow to his base or risk destruction. "I would have landed him on our airfield, and I wanted to say 'thank you' to you very much," he said. "Do you think I wanted to kill him? I would rather have shared a bottle with him."



But he did not try to make radio contact, saying that there was no time and that the intruder would not have understood Russian. Time was running out. The

intruder would soon have passed over Sakhalin Island into international airspace. Worried that it might get away, the Soviet pilot became concerned when it slowed down. He took this as an indication that the Korean jet had seen him and was trying to evade him. He descended, pulled behind the intruder and fired the two missiles. Flight 007 was only 20 to 25 seconds from neutral territory, he said. Now aged 62, with a thick shock of white hair, Mr Osipovich, like many former military men, relies on a small pension of about \$20 a month. But with the government strapped for cash, he cannot recall the last time he received it. He is still treated with respect. At a recent seminar in Moscow at the left-leaning newspaper Trud, he was toasted at a reception. Poor, and vilified in most of the Western world, he is proud of his fame. Downing a glass of vodka, he said: "I am a lucky guy." — *New York Times*.

World news in brief

Oil-for-food dealing set to start today

THE United Nations yesterday authorised the start of the long-delayed oil-for-food deal which will allow Iraq to make a limited return to the world oil market for the first time since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Under the deal, concluded in May but held up by disputes over implementation, Iraq will be able to sell \$2 billion-worth of oil over six months to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods to help offset the effects of sanctions, starting today. Both the oil sales and the purchase of humanitarian supplies are subject to close UN monitoring. If all goes well, the Security Council may renew the deal. The secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, gave the go-ahead in a report to the Security Council. — *Reuters, New York*.

Medal for war crimes suspect

THE Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, awarded a medal at the weekend to a Bosnian Croat general indicted as a war crimes suspect and in custody awaiting trial in the Hague, a Bosnian Croat spokesman said yesterday. General Tihomir Blaskic was indicted in connection with alleged massacres of Muslims by Croats under his command in central Bosnia. His wife accepted the medal on his behalf at a ceremony in Puzosje in Croat-controlled south-western Bosnia. Gen Blaskic was one of about 50 Bosnian Croats commended by Mr Tudjman for their role in offensives to recapture Serb-held southern Croatia and large chunks of western Bosnia in summer 1995, said the spokesman. — *AP, Zagreb*.

Belgian deputy PM cleared

BELGIUM'S centre-left coalition government appeared to have weathered a political storm last night after the socialist deputy prime minister, Elio di Rupo, was largely cleared of allegations that he had sex with under-age boys. A report by investigators from the supreme court concluded that the allegations against Mr di Rupo, made by a discredited single witness, were without foundation. But they also concluded that he had not had sufficient time to study further undisclosed allegations made last week. — *Stephen Bates, Brussels*.

Euthanasia law faces reverse

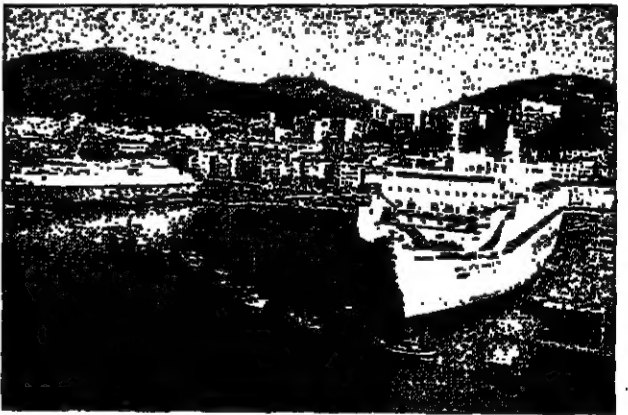
AUSTRALIA'S federal house of representatives yesterday passed overwhelmingly a bill to override a Northern Territory law that permits doctor-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. The Northern Territory's legislature was last year the first in the world to enact a law that sanctions euthanasia. The proposed bill must now be passed by the senate before it can become law. — *AP, Canberra*.

Russians block nuclear plan

RUSSIA'S fledgling environmental movement scored a significant victory yesterday when more than 80 per cent of voters in the impoverished northern Krasnoyarsk region rejected a plan to build a nuclear power station. The referendum was the first of its kind in a country where major capital projects are imposed from above. It was the result of a 20-year battle waged against the local administration and the ministry of atomic energy by environmentalists and ordinary people. — *David Hearst, Moscow*.

Defectors arrive in Seoul

IN THE largest single defection from North Korea since the Korean war, a family of 17, including five children and a pregnant woman, reached the South yesterday. An arduous 48-day journey had taken them through China and Hong Kong. They left the impoverished communist country because they were hungry, they said. — *AP, Seoul*.



Fishing boats linked by cables block ferries at Ajaccio, Corsica, yesterday on the seventh day of a blockade to demand a cut in taxes for fishermen. Traffic between the island and France is paralysed. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANCIS MATTEI

EU to rule on mutant maize

THE European Commission will decide next week whether to allow the import of genetically modified maize from the United States after EU environment ministers, meeting in Brussels, failed to reach agreement. Three scientific committees are due to report to the Commission by the end of the week about whether the maize — which has a marker gene resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin — poses a potential risk to human health. It is thought likely that the Commission will allow the import of the maize, which will form about 0.05 per cent of the US crop this year, but restrict it to animal fodder. Member states are split on the issue, with only France saying it wants to grow genetically modified maize itself. — *Stephen Bates, Brussels*.

Swiss to study Nazi finances

SWITZERLAND'S parliament cleared the way yesterday for a federal decree to study financial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth in Swiss banks during the Holocaust. Parliament's upper chamber paved the way to passage by withdrawing a controversial amendment giving individuals who feared being mugged in the study the right to ask the Swiss high court to block their names from being published. The decree was expected to win final approval in one more vote by both chambers and come into effect by Friday. — *Reuters, Bern*.

Peace prize winners split

EAST TIMOR'S Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Belo and resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta, co-winners of the 1996 Nobel peace prize, held separate news conferences at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo yesterday in what Mr Ramos Horta hinted was a result of pressure by the Indonesian government on Bishop Belo, who will be awarded the prize at a ceremony today with the activist. — *Reuters, Oslo*.

Taliban bans paper bags

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban has banned paper bags under a campaign to impose pure Islamic law. "We respect paper, whether it is written on or not. We have announced that people should not use paper for bags or put paper on the rubbish tip," said the Taliban's acting information minister, Amir Khan Mutaqi, yesterday. "People should use plastic bags instead of paper." They said there might be some words from the Holy Quran or Arabic writing on the paper which might then be thrown away and that would be an insult to the Holy Quran, said one trader. Shopkeepers said they had had a run on toilet paper from customers unsure how far the ban would go. — *Reuters, Kabul*.



A worker at a tractor factory in Belgrade waits yesterday for the signal to strike and take to the streets in support of the protests, but the poor organisation of the unions meant he never left the factory grounds. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BRUCCHE

Milosevic caught in vibrant web of new technology

Chris Hedges in Belgrade

WHEN Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, faced with large anti-government demonstrations, tried to shut down the last vestiges of an independent news media last week, he unwittingly spawned a technological revolt. Tens of thousands of students, professors, professionals and journalists connected their computers to Internet web sites abroad when the government closed independent radio

station B-92 for two days. The station made digital broadcasts in Serbo-Croatian and English using audio Internet links, and using its web site, continued reporting on the protests, which were set off by the government's annulment of municipal elections won by the opposition. B-92, which has been the main source of news here, was allowed to broadcast again as the government eased its response to the protests and hinted that it might reconsider the annulment of elections. But the experience has made protesters aware of the tremendous potential at their fingertips. Independent journalists have rushed forward with plans to bypass government transmitters, news agencies and television studios, using the Internet to carry

their message across Serbia and to the outside world. "In the early days of the protests, before the international media arrived, B-92 was the only way most people could hear about what was happening," said Sasa Vucinic, managing director of the Media Development Loan Fund. "The moment the radio signal was cut, the Internet took over." Mailboxes of government officials in Europe, humanitarian agencies, journalists and supporters were flooded within hours. It has become the movement's lifeline. B-92 is now concluding a deal with supporters in the Amsterdam-based access service XSAALL to record all its programming digitally and broadcast it on the Internet 24 hours a day. "The irony is that the government meant to silence us, but instead forced us to build on a whole new technology to stay alive," said Drazen Pantic, head of the radio's Internet service. "The drive to close us down has given us a tool to expand our audience." Government officials ordered the deans of Belgrade University to stop students using university computers last week to access the Internet. But as most professors support the protests, the order was ignored. Serbian Internet users have even drawn up contingency plans should the government attempt to cut the Internet lines. Thousands of boxes of eggs — a symbol of the student protests — sent over the Internet, would flood government offices. — *New York Times*.

Leader comment, page 8

'Vampire' woman-killer jailed in Poland

Reuters in Warsaw

ONE of Poland's most baffling serial murder trials ended yesterday with the conviction of Leszek Pekalski — dubbed "The Vampire" — for the killing of one woman and his acquittal on 18 other murder charges. A court in Slupsk, north-west Poland, jailed the former bricklayer for 25 years for a single sex murder in 1987, ruling that the jail term could start only after he has been treated in a psychiatric hospital. During a three-year investigation, Pekalski at first admitted almost 70 murders, then cut the number to 14 and finally denied any killings and alleged that police had pressurised him into making false confessions. He faced 17 charges of murder, two of rape and one for the abduction of a baby who later died of cold. In all but one of the cases, his lawyers successfully pointed to a lack of confident witnesses. Prosecutors said Pekalski had attacked his alleged victims, mostly women, with exceptional cruelty — beating and kicking them, strangling them with his hands and items of clothing, using knives or wooden clubs, and sexually assaulting them.

East knows a four-letter word for peace

In the second of two articles on Nato expansion, **Ian Traynor** surveys the frontrunners for admission as foreign ministers draw up a shortlist today

WHEN it comes to the future security of Europe, the east Europeans have little time for the alphabet soup of OSCEs, FFPs, and WEUs within which the issues have been endlessly debated these past six years. Condemned by history and geography to occupy the vulnerable areas between the European giants, Germany and Russia, eastern Europe seeks the answers to its security dilemmas in one acronym only — Nato. They view the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as the most effective and successful military alliance ever and they want in. They do not want to be fobbed off by partnerships for peace, or other Western schemes aimed at appeasing the Kremlin's resistance to the West's advance into the former Warsaw Pact. "The Czech Republic is convinced that expanding Nato and the European Union will further the security of us all," said the Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, this month. "We intend to become members of both organisations and we are prepared to participate fully in their activities."



to the Western military club is, from the point of view of Warsaw, Prague, and Budapest, about to move into a promising phase after years of doubt, handwringing, and disappointment. A Nato foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels today is expected to draw up a shortlist of candidates for early admission, to be followed by an alliance summit next summer at which formal offers of membership negotiations are to be issued. The frontrunners for early entry are Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. Under the rule of Vladimir Meciar, Slovakia's commitment to democracy is seen as questionable. All four were in the Warsaw Pact. Slovenia, which was not but was part of Yugoslavia, has moved in just

صدي من الامم

Invisible hands that hold the reins

In the second of three articles in advance of this week's Chinese appointment of a new chief executive for Hong Kong, **Andrew Higgins** looks at where the real power will lie after Britain hands over the territory on June 30 next year



Pro-democracy activists opposing China's plan to set up a provisional legislature after the handover next year are blocked by police in Hong Kong yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: CLAUDIO CORTESE

A LONG the fetid, wire-tangled corridors of a low-rent Hong Kong high-rise, a rusty security grille shields the deliberations of traditional Chinese doctors who meet to share secrets about acupuncture, anti-venom and herbs. Also shared is a secret about the calligrapher whose work occupies a place of honour on the wall inside. It bears the signature of Zhou Nan, the mirthless cadre who heads the Hong Kong branch of the Xinhua News Agency, China's de facto diplomatic mission. But, explains an elderly Chinese from the mainland who asks not to be named, Mr Zhou graces the wall here in another capacity: he is the head of an underground Communist Party network in Hong Kong and the nearby Portuguese enclave of Macao. From ramshackle offices like this to the boardroom of the Bank of China extends the

influence of an organisation that both Britain and China pretend has no presence in Hong Kong but which, in just 203 days, will be the territory's ultimate master. Unlike the selection of Hong Kong's post-colonial governor, a predictable process that culminates tomorrow with the choice of a Shanghai-born, Liverpool-educated shipping magnate, the future role of the party is uncertain. "I do not know what their plans are, whether they will be legalised or whether they want to be legalised," said Tung Chee-hwa, the man certain to become chief executive. Present in Hong Kong since the 1920s, but barred from any legal existence by a 1949 Societies Ordinance, the colony's Communist Party is so secretive it disguises its name. It calls itself The Hong Kong and Macao Work Committee, abbreviated to WorkCom, or *Gongwei* in Chinese. "Because it is so mysteri-

ous the Communist Party in Hong Kong makes people very anxious," admits Shiu Sin-por, a pro-China stalwart who says the party will not impose "political commissars" in the police or civil service but will act as Beijing's eyes and ears. Civil servants, he believes, will not be perturbed. "People typing up secret memos, described the party in a book written from exile in California. He says it had 8,000 members in 1993. Alarmed to find it dominated by "old and poorly educated" zealots, Mr Xu set up a group to "work among the middle and upper classes". He does not identify his recruits. "There are bound to be Communist Party members

renamed "chief executive" and relocated away from Government House — too colonial and too much bad feng-shui, say local experts — but will not, in theory, lose its power. Chinese organs offering advice on how it should be exercised will be legion. The proliferation of Chinese power centres has even begun to reshape the skyline, where

There are bound to be Communist Party members in Hong Kong after '97. What is important is whether they interfere or not'

reports about them would be nothing new. They expected that in the past too," he says. Estimates of the number of Work Committee members range up to 20,000 — many of whom are named in secret special branch files awaiting incineration or shipment back to Britain. Xu Jiatun, Mr Zhou's purged predecessor as head of Xinhua and of the Work Com-

mission, says the Xinhua News Agency should retain control over mainland interests. Others disagree. "Xinhua is a product of a special history. It is a mishmash of various roles — government and party — and will undergo tremendous change," said Mr Shiu, who runs a think-tank funded by Beijing. Mr Tung, the shipping

deputy director and party apparition, denounced a legislator's call to discuss the issue as "ignorant and stupid". But while not ready to go public, the Work Committee is poised to enter the inner sanctum of government after decades of British surveillance and harassment. Mr Tung, who has had strong ties with the pro-China camp since Beijing bailed out his shipping firm in 1985, is expected to bring mainland business interests such as the Bank of China into his cabinet or executive council. This copies the pattern of past British governors who stacked their cabinets with British taipans and bankers. But it would also mean the entry of the Communist Party. The local heads of the Bank of China, China Resources, China Travel Service and other mainland conglomerates are members of the Work Committee, according to Mr Xu. Frederick Fung, a moderate

Sacked ANC minister may form party



Bantu Holomisa sounds out support for a new party

NELSON Mandela's African National Congress is facing the first challenge to its unity with the announcement by a sacked junior minister, Bantu Holomisa, that he is considering forming a rival political party. Mr Holomisa, a former homeland leader, was one of the most popular figures in the ANC before his expulsion. His allies include President Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie. Gen Holomisa announced yesterday that he was abandoning a Supreme Court

action aimed at forcing the ANC to reinstate him as a member and would instead organise a national conference to consider the formation of a new party. The general was expelled, after being fired by Mr Mandela as deputy minister of the environment and tourism, for accusing a cabinet minister, Stella Sigcau, of taking a bribe from the controversial casino boss Sol Kerzner. He also accused the ANC of accepting money from Mr Kerzner, a charge which was eventually conceded. The former leader of the Transkei said yesterday that he had made the decision after a meeting with Mr Mandela last week, at which the

president allegedly warned him that if he joined re-admission to the ANC he would be "crushed". Gen Holomisa said that in these circumstances there would be no point in re-joining. He had been under pressure for some time to take the lead in forming a new party and would organise a consultative conference on the issue in the new year. Accusing the ANC of abandoning its democratic principles, he said: "Strong views have been expressed that I should launch a new party that would protect civil liberties and ensure that there are checks and balances in our new democratic order." Whether a serious chal-

lenge can be mounted to the ANC so soon after its success in liberating South Africa is questionable. But the threat comes at an awkward time. Recently the national executive ousted supporters by forcing the resignation of the Free State region's popular premier, Patrick "Terror" Leiso, to defuse a row over his attempts to fire members of the provincial cabinet for alleged corruption. At the weekend, the ANC in the Northern Province ignored Mr Mandela's efforts to secure the unopposed re-election of their unpopular regional premier, Ngako Ramathodi, as provincial party chairman. An ANC senator narrowly won the poll.

The problems have been compounded by growing suspicions that the increasingly autocratic Mr Mandela, aged 78, is losing his grip. His designated successor, Thabo Mbeki, is less than universally popular in the party. Gen Holomisa's popularity is beyond question. At the last ANC national congress he topped the poll in elections for the executive. After his expulsion, he staged rallies which drew tens of thousands of supporters. In alliance with Mrs Mandela he would present a strong populist challenge. But there must be doubt as to whether many other politicians would risk Mr Mandela's wrath by joining them.

Jordanian spies spin on-line web

Intelligence agents are displaying a new openness, writes **Dominic Evans**

BASHAR DAHABRA's computer business was just starting to take off when the phone call came through. Mr Dahabra, an all-powerful General Intelligence Department (GID) officer, had just been promoted to head of his department. When he got there the GID officer had just one question. Could Mr Dahabra arrange to hook Jordanian intelligence services on to an Internet web-site? Two months later, on November 11, the GID launched its Internet home page (<http://www.arab.net/jid/>), promising tantalising glimpses into its operation and an e-mail address to anyone who wanted to get in touch. Mr Dahabra said the project was the first in the Arab world where such openness is rare and the image of intelligence services is of a ruthless and invisible Big Brother, terrifying all and accountable to none. The result is a strait-laced guide to Jordan, spiced with a few tidbits about the GID, an organisation with such control over Jordanians' lives they need its clearance to get a passport or take a job in the public sector. "We have adopted a new policy of openness which we believe will better enhance our ability to serve our people," says a welcoming note from the GID director, Sameeh al-Buteikhy. "Naturally, however, due to the nature of

our work there exist certain restraints upon the type of information that we will be able to provide through this medium." Few details are provided but the GID does shed some light on its philosophy. The department lists 24 Jordanian political parties. Those represented in cabinet it describes as "politically moderate". Others are dismissed as leftist, Islamist, or Arab nationalist. The only staff named are the seven directors who have run the GID since its founding in 1964. There are no pictures of officials, nor of the GID base, said to be a complex in west Amman. The official weekly *Abed Rebo* hinted at dark motives behind the Internet project. "An agent in every house" ran its headline on a story suggesting Jordanians were being turned into a nation of cyber-spooks, informing on their neighbours by Internet. It urged readers to post these questions to the GID: "Will this new service offer the citizen his right to be interrogated and kicked around via the Internet? "Why do you allow citizens to scream in their cells, but not shout on the streets? "How many days do you need to get a camel to confess to being a dinosaur?" The GID, answering an e-mail query from Reuters, said it had received a "flood of congratulatory messages" on its Internet page. "It is not our intention to have an open forum for discussion through this medium, but rather to be of service to Jordanians as well as others on a one-to-one basis," it added. There were 25,000 visitors to the page in its first week. — Reuters.

Ghanaian is tipped for top UN post

MARK TRAN in New York

KOFI ANNAN of Ghana, a 30-year veteran of the United Nations, yesterday emerged as the uneasy frontrunner to lead the international organisation as the Security Council began canvassing views on a list of African hopefuls to succeed the secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Mr Annan, aged 58, head of UN peacekeeping, is considered by UN officials to have the inside track for the job. He is liked by the US, France, Britain and Russia, although

he might face problems with China, nervous about the prospect of having a secretary-general too close to the US. These five all have veto rights over the choice of secretary-general. The US last month blocked Mr Boutros-Ghali on grounds that he was too sluggish on streamlining the UN bureaucracy, but most diplomats believe that the real reason is that he was too independent. The other three candidates are Hamid Alagibi, former prime minister of Niger, Amara Essy, foreign minister of the Ivory Coast, and Ahmed

Ould Abdallah of Mauritania, a former special envoy to Burundi. But Mr Annan has the vote of UN officials. "I hope he does become secretary-general, he is the most capable of the lot really. But if he is perceived as the frontrunner with the backing of the US and Britain, that could be the kiss of death," said one UN official. It is an open secret that the US favours Mr Annan. Other potential candidates include Saim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity, Moustapha

Niassé of Senegal, and Olara Otunnu, who heads the International Peace Academy, a New York think-tank. But Nelson Mandela, the president of South Africa, revealed at the weekend that he had been told by President Jacques Chirac that France would veto the Tanzanian because he does not speak French. The proceedings are being criticised as messy. African delegates have been embarrassed by the disorganised approach to the process, particularly the failure to rally behind a single alternative to Mr Boutros-Ghali.

Dispute mars Gulf summit

KATHY EVANS in Doha, Qatar

A DISPUTE over a string of tiny, potentially oil and gas rich islands threatened to shatter the facade of unity between the Arab Gulf states yesterday. The meeting of Gulf leaders, held annually to show regional unity, ended in Doha with a blistering attack by the Qatari foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim, on neighbouring Bahrain. He accused Bahrain of conducting threatening military exercises, interfering in the emirate's affairs, and trying to take advantage of the dispute between the Qatar emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and the father he deposed, Sheikh Khalifa. Waving a letter at journalists, the Qatari minister claimed that Bahrain had attempted to force the former emir to sign a pledge to the Bahraini ruler, Sheikh Issa, saying that he would relinquish all claims to the disputed Fawar islands if he returned to power in Qatar. The disputed islands lie 300 metres off the west coast of Qatar and can be reached on foot at low tide. But Bahrain claims that the local fishermen have historically paid allegiance to their ruling sheiks. In 1997, after a series of clashes, Britain awarded the islands to Bahrain. Billions of pounds could be at stake. The islands lie just

north of Qatar's main oilfield, the Dukkan. Because of the dispute, the areas around Fawar have not been explored for 25 years, but they are believed to contain oil and gas. If developed, the field could transform Bahrain's future. With its oil reserves dwindling, the state lives largely on Saudi hand-outs. The Gulf Co-operation Council has not only failed to resolve the quarrel, but has failed to contain it. Qatar is pursuing its case at the International Court of Justice in the Hague. The Qatari minister went on to say that the emir was planning to lunch today with his father in Rome. But he refused to give details of any reconciliation between the two. Earlier this year, the emir began legal proceedings in eight countries accusing his father of misappropriating state funds.

Burma troops clash with rioters

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE in Bangkok

BURMESE troops and riot police chased stone-throwing students through Rangoon yesterday in a vain attempt to contain one of the boldest shows of defiance since the crackdown that brought the military junta to power eight years ago. The clashes occurred after several hundred students, continuing nearly a week of demonstrations, marched towards the US embassy, holding a picture of the independence hero Aung San Suu Kyi and chanting "give us freedom" and "open the

schools". Riot police halted the march and then, backed by troops on personnel carriers, started to pursue students, who responded by throwing stones before dispersing down side streets and alleys. Students said last night tension was still high in the capital where jittery authorities have imposed a range of security measures. Rangoon Institute of Technology and the scene of the university, the scene of scuffles and stone-throwing on Saturday, remained closed. The junta reportedly shut boys' high schools yesterday and sealed off roads. But students show no sign of relenting.

"The situation is fluid, it's more unstable than it has been since the junta took power," a diplomat in Rangoon remarked. The students, whose protest began after police beat three students involved in a tea-shop brawl in October, have steered clear of broader political issues. But the junta made it clear yesterday it believes it is dealing with a political challenge incited by Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy and it has reportedly warned her against leaving her house. "We have evidence that not only some NLD members but also [exiled student militants] and elements of the Burma

Communist Party are deeply involved in this unrest," a military intelligence official said. Ms Suu Kyi repudiated the charge as "absolutely ridiculous", adding that authorities "should be trying to deal with their problems instead of trying to find someone to blame". The junta has by its own standards acted leniently towards the students, detaining some 800 after a demonstration last week and several hundred at the weekend but releasing most of them within hours. But the use of troops and police to close campuses 10 months into the academic year appears to have increased student grievances.

You don't have to make drastic changes to obtain a healthy lifestyle. The smallest, easiest changes — like chewing gum, drinking tea or eating the odd carrot — can do a lot to steer you away from a host of health problems.

Health G2 page 12

Free trade's high price

Singapore is not just about lower tariff barriers

THE PROBLEM with the continuing dialogue about free trade — the centrepiece of this week's first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore — is that there is too much pressure for abandoning tariff barriers and not enough discussion about the level playing field on which free trade ought to operate. Of course we are, nearly all of us, in favour of lower tariff barriers these days. A succession of long-drawn out trade negotiations culminating in the recently completed Uruguay Round has increased the scale of international trade with potential benefits for rich and poor countries. The trouble is that the West, and the United States in particular, has too many of the bargaining counters. The powerful US lobbyists can storm into Singapore demanding free trade in the sectors where it has a strong advantage (like telecommunications, information technology and agriculture) while the West drags its heels over implementation of the existing Multi-Fibre Arrangement — one of the few provisions of the Uruguay Round that opened up Western markets to low-cost textile imports from the developing world.

As Oxfam reminds us, the main comparative advantage of the Third World is its poverty which attracts inward investment. This is welcomed by the governments concerned because otherwise such investment would go elsewhere. It is sometimes unfairly justified by the fact that factory workers, although on ludicrously low wages, are at least better off than they were unemployed. Some aid agencies have even been reluctant to condemn instances of child labour for similar reasons. Oxfam cogently argues that the rights laid down by the International Labour Organisation (to which most countries subscribe) covering areas like collective bargaining, forced labour and employment discrimination

should be linked with the obligations proposed by the government-driven WTO. If freer world trade and social responsibility were indivisible, then the successor to the Uruguay Round might even acquire a touch of street cred it has never had before.

The American Farm Bureau sounds highly convincing when it complains that China has for years refused to buy wheat from the US because it says American grain is contaminated with a fungus. But it declines to add that the US, which earns a cool \$60 billion from agricultural exports, operates unacceptable subsidies of her own even though the US lobbyists argue that since they are subsidies for land rather than production they don't offend the WTO rules. The US is right to point out that, because of free trade, the cost of a transatlantic telephone call originating in the US is two cents a minute compared with two dollars a minute for calls originating from the protected European market. There is no doubt that cheap telephone calls and cheaper computers would be a galvanising force not just for Europe but for developing countries as well. There's just one snag. Guess who makes most of the equipment for the burgeoning information technology markets?

The US and Europe failed to agree an information technology pact yesterday that would eliminate tariffs by the millennium. Europe wants things like fibre optic cables, capacitors and photocopiers to be included, while Washington wants them excluded. Some, like Malaysia, refused to accept zero tariffs by 2000. Like other developing countries they are afraid of opening up their own fledgling technology markets to the vastly superior prowess of the US. The US doesn't seem to be demanding reform in areas where it doesn't have a strong comparative advantage. Curious that.



Letters to the Editor

Race that's littered with obstacles

THE Essay by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (Black looks and white lies, December 7) was not entirely right. The people of California did not "vote" to ban gender and race quotas in government contracts. They did vote to elect a Republican governor who has since then have never been any. The far right in the US would have you believe that virtually every black man or woman in employment owes their place to a quota, but that doesn't mean it is true.

Quotas do exist in the US but their use is very limited. Nonetheless, the fact of their existence has done great PR damage to the cause of equal opportunities, helped along by some of the excesses perpetrated at the fringes.

Quotas have no place in thinking about equality in the UK but the choice is not between quotas or nothing. Yasmin Alibhai-Brown got perilously close to suggesting that little can be achieved until white men have adjusted their heads. This is a pessimistic and impractical prescription. Of course we all wish that racist, sexist or simply patronising ideas did not exist and that WASPs did not regard themselves as being superior to the rest of us. However, you cannot tell all whites that they have to wait until their larger issues have been resolved.

John Carr,
Lavender Grove,
London E8.

YASMIN Alibhai-Brown throws away much of the force of her piece by arguing that anxieties about the corrosion of a British cultural identity need to be taken seriously.

Racism and nationalism are first cousins. The one cannot be attacked by making concessions to the other. Britishness is the name of state power. It had its last and most comprehensive unattractive outing when Mrs Thatcher used it to take on a warring military dictatorship in the South Atlantic. Her example was soon followed by English football fans on the terraces of Europe.

But Britishness is now in rapid decay. It is a misreading to see the shyness of the Tory Europhobes as anything other than the beginning of nationalism's end-game. Its future is Trooping the Colour on this of shortbread for tourists.

We are witnessing an epic moment in the war against racism in the TGWU's stand against the employment practices of Ford Truckfleet. An official of the rival union claims that the extreme rarity of black lorry drivers "may simply be because their superior intelligence says don't work in a shitty job for low pay" (TUC to rule on union race row at Ford, December 5). To dispose of such cynical white-collar racism requires precisely that we do not grace

its indelible national identity with any legitimacy whatsoever.

Anxiety about its survival is a very good sign.

Tom Snow,
Mundania Road,
London SE22.

YASMIN Alibhai-Brown highlights clandestine racism within employment practices and individuals' attitudes.

Racial discrimination has been historically rampant in highly paid jobs. I remember in 1965 when I was seeking a job as a printer worker in Fleet Street. Their practices, then supported by the trade unions, were similar to those at Ford.

Amia Mawani,
Selby Road,
London W5.

YASMIN Alibhai-Brown seems to be saying that now there are not enough low-grade jobs to go round and blacks are being kept out of those that "there are by white competitors, black people with ability and money should try to join the middle classes."

She has done this herself by putting her son through a fee-paying school and at least trying to get him into Oxford. I wonder how this will go down with car workers suffering discrimination in Dagenham? My own conclusion after 36 years of "race relations"

Dead keen on dissenters

IT is all too frequently the lot of left-wing Labour MPs to be vilified while alive, only to receive posthumous praise after they have departed. Such a fate has now befallen Kinnaird (Follow thy leader, December 9) because he once said something that every single Labour Party member would agree with, namely that "the worst possible Labour government is better than the best conceivable Conservative government".

But would Gerald Kaufman have been so generous in his support of Kinnaird had he been present when this frequently dissenting MP was doing his best to ensure the very best possible Labour government? This is a fair question because disagreement and dissent over serious issues is all too often translated as being disloyal in the modern Labour Party.

Gerald Kaufman's dissenting views on multilateral disarmament and the Common Market, when he was eloquently voicing them in the 1960s, did not earn him the opprobrium that is so often heaped upon Tony Blair's critics.

Interestingly, Gerald also believes that "loyalty to the leadership really counts when the leaders are wrong and unpopular" and continues by contrasting Michael Foot's honourable dissenting views with his support for Labour governments even when they were busy doing very unpopular things, such as offering support for the Americans in Vietnam.

Could this be the same Gerald Kaufman who, as a member of the Shadow Cabinet, called upon Michael Foot to stand down as leader of the Labour Party only weeks before a general election? Mark Seddon,
Editor,
Tribune,
306 Gray's Inn Road,
London EC1.

The force that Milosevic fears

International criticism is important, but internal dissent vital

THE SERBIAN struggle has been drawn out and inconclusive, but it must soon come to the crunch. At the end of last week, the opposition forces thought they were celebrating a victory when their disputed election result in Belgrade was referred to the supreme court. But the judges found in favour of the government ruling which had set aside last month's victory by the Zedno (Together) opposition coalition in the local elections. A number of judges in the supreme and lower courts had voiced support for the challenge, but the decision — reached with indecent speed — betrayed the heavy hand of President Slobodan Milosevic. The students may control the streets, but Slobodan can still manipulate the seats.

The only hope now lies in a subsequent move by the city's electoral commission to appeal against the ruling. This could give Mr Milosevic another chance to defuse the crisis while quietly giving ground. The danger is that he is deliberately playing for time, in the hope that the opposition will turn to outright violence — which would then legitimise repressive measures. No one believes for a moment that Mr Milosevic will ever go quietly. The effect of the Dayton agreement was initially to strengthen, not weaken, his pretensions to great leadership. Though the implicit objective of the war — to build a Greater Serbia — had been lost (or at least postponed) Mr Milosevic was able to present himself as a peace-maker, at least in part because the Western pow-

ers felt obliged to treat him as such. His weakness arose not from the actual terms of the settlement, but from the evaporation of an atmosphere of perpetual war crisis which had helped him to maintain dictatorial power against all challengers. The current protest in the streets is based on a coalition of student and intelligentsia calling for free speech with a broader stratum of middle class opinion which complains of public corruption and private hardship. Over the past three weeks it has been an impressive performance, not least because of its relative restraint (eggs and a few stones rather than firebombs or worse). But it has failed to reach a critical mass comparable to that of the Czech velvet revolution — to which it has nonetheless been compared. The organisers are now threatening workers' strikes and marches, but yesterday's protest at a Belgrade tractor factory failed miserably when only a few hundred out of several thousands took part.

The international community is hovering outside this crisis uncertainly. Mr Milosevic is the man who started the Bosnia tragedy; he is also the man who finished it. In the opposition coalition, only Vuk Draskovic appears fully committed to Dayton. But these calculations are futile in a situation so full of uncertainties. In the end Mr Milosevic will either be defeated or not by the internal forces against him. International criticism of his actions should be expressed fully and forcefully.

In brief

YOU are wrong to suggest that "John Maynard Keynes might not have approved" of the National Lottery (Stars mark reopening of Keynes's theatre, December 7). In 1932 Keynes recommended "a weekly state lottery, less 10 per cent ... for the benefit of taxation". It would be "a cheering thing for the poorer members of the community to believe that there is at least the possibility of their getting a legacy".

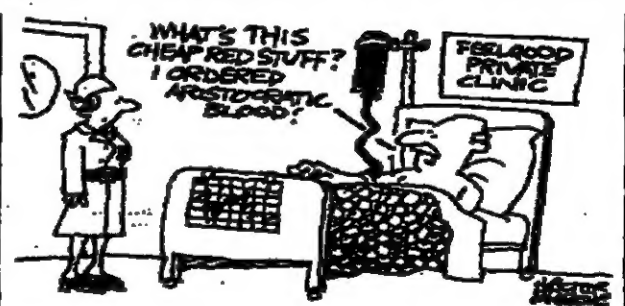
Such a shame then that the Government hasn't taken up other Keynesian ideas and has instead raised the odds against achieving social justice in the 1990s to 14 million to one.

Paul Bennett,
St John's College,
Oxford OX1 3JP.

THIRTY years ago I walked into my mother-in-law's house sporting my newly sprouted facial adornment (Letters, December 9). Her first words to me were: "Oh God, shave that f***ing thing off." I now understand that it was absolutely nothing to do with swearing and that, somehow, my beard was synonymous with "throw-half-penny". The question is: Do I apologise to my mother-in-law for having doubted her all these years or do I shave off my beard and stand as a Labour candidate? Dave Roberts,
14 Radcliffe Avenue,
Chadwell,
Derby DE21 5NN.

AM I to believe that Jonathan Dimbleby doesn't use mains electricity, a mobile phone or fill up the Range Rover at the local BP service station when retreating to the countryside (December 9)? This seems to be consistent with the double standards worthy of the subject of his recent biography. Nigel Linford,
12 Windermere Court,
East Drive,
Brighton BN2 2BU.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We cannot acknowledge those not used.



It makes your blood boil

THE Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service has launched a campaign to highlight the need for blood donors in the coming festive period. A consultant haematologist, referring to the plasma exchange treatment of *E. coli* victims, states: "We can't meet these high demands without the generosity of donors."

Meanwhile, stocks of blood and blood products in London and the South East have fallen so low that there is only about "half a day's supply

left". During these crises, as in the past, commercial hospitals and clinics continue to be supplied with blood at bargain-basement rates. One of Labour's first reforms must be an enquiry into the whole "business" of giving away blood to private hospitals and clinics. Either the supply must be stopped or else the charges increased to realistic levels, probably five times those of today.

Jim Brunton,
7 Baldwin Gardens,
Edinburgh EH16 6TE.

Hear them out

MISUNDERSTANDINGS arise because the category "war pensioners" includes former members of the armed forces who have not been in any war but have incurred disabilities or health impairment resulting from their service (Shabby and mean-minded, December 6). In some cases partial loss of hearing was caused by practice firing of their own weapons, not by high explosive or enemy action. They rightly receive compensation.

I write as a war-disabled former Cabinet minister who served in the Army through out the second world war. I was wounded three days after the outbreak of the war and died for 7. December 6, and then spent 14 months in hospital. In different battles, many of my comrades were killed or wounded near me. I recall an occasion when one of my soldiers suffered a perforated eardrum from close enemy shell-bursts. He was correctly treated as a casualty requiring urgent medical attention.

Lord Campbell of Croy,
Vice-president, RNID,
House of Lords,
London SW1A 0PW.

THE worst possible government is surely one that stifles debate and crushes legitimate criticism, as Mrs Thatcher did during the 1980s. Many people got involved in the Labour movement precisely because they were alarmed at the damage that our democracy sustained during that period and saw democratic socialism as a bulwark against further encroachment.

It is therefore disturbing to see longstanding Labour MP advocating the sort of "manny knows best" elective despotism beloved of the Tory right.

Simon McKeown,
10 Murchell House,
Mooke Lane,
London SE16 1BJ.

Strong family bonds for Caitlin

There are emotional risks: but the moral minority is wrong

THE CLINICAL research fellow at Oxford could not have been more unequivocal: "This is a solution to a tragic and rare medical problem which makes everybody happy and nobody unhappy." Alas, not everyone will be happy. The moral minority has already expressed its opposition to a woman acting as a surrogate mother for her daughter's child. They remain critical now that Britain's first surrogate grandmother, Edith Jones, has given birth. Dame Jill Knight, the Birmingham Conservative MP, declared: "My own feeling is that it's very strange for any child to be saddled with a mother who is its grandmother."

No one can dispute the situation is unusual. The world's first surrogate grandmother gave birth in South Africa in 1987, but baby Caitlin will be Britain's first surrogate baby born to her own grandmother. But the usual worries surrounding surrogacy — a last

minute change of mind by the surrogate mother about giving up the baby — never arose. Edith Jones did not need to worry about losing touch with the baby she had carried. As its grandmother, she is guaranteed a lasting relationship. Her daughter, who was born without a womb but produced the eggs which were fertilised by her husband's sperm, is in no doubt about the debt she owes to her mother. Edith Jones, aged 51, put her own health at risk in acting as the surrogate mother. Older women face increased risks of high blood pressure, diabetes and varicose veins in pregnancy. Obviously there are emotional risks too but all the people involved were carefully counselled. Mrs Jones acknowledges her need to "stand back and not keep reminding my daughter of what I have done for her". Baby Caitlin, who will be told what happened, will be in no doubt over the strength of her family's bonds — or their love.

Betrayal — but by whom?

HAROLD Pinter's trade (First Person, December 4) against the United States approaches the ultimate in pitiful thinking.

It is continuously perplexing why an assumed competitor in one, rather narrow, speciality — let's call it the stage — automatically endows one with the wit, scholarship, or minimum knowledge sufficient to indict a nation and its entire people.

Wish that space would permit a line-by-line rebuttal.

In America, at least — that most hateful and irresponsible of nations — national newspapers would not turn over its pages to such mindless ranting sprinkled with such illuminating delicacies as "shit" and "fuck". Any editor worthy of the name would address Mr Pinter's intellectual impoverishment and, at minimum, insist on a slightly more rigorous formulation.

Ah, for the days of newspaper print scarcity! An American (and quite proud of it),
Wattfield Road,
Walsham-le-Willows,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP8 8ED.

NO one should doubt that Harold Pinter has got it right. We have recently come back from a year's stay in the US very conscious of the intensity of US nationalism. Every bill passed through the Senate or Congress is a "triumph (or victory) for the American people".

Essentially, the only international news on the regular TV channels concerns Bosnia, simply because US troops are there.

We soon found that democracy had been invented by America, had been given to the world by America and that, thanks to America, more people in the world now wanted democracy. We met very few people who thought any of this undesirable or worrying; it was, rather, believed to be normal. At the end of a year we left depressed as to where this self-delusion might lead.

Les and Polly Allen,
Trunton Lodge,
Wattfield Road,
Walsham-le-Willows,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP8 8ED.

A Country Diary

CHEESHIRE: On one of the few days in the past fortnight free from rain, hail or snow, I walked out of the western end of the valley and followed the river across the fields, round the wide ox-bow bend towards the small weir which was a favourite fishing spot for the resident kingfisher. As I ambled along, at a naturalist's pace, it was good to see that the winter thrushes had settled in to gorge on the rich harvest of berries on the hawthorns — redwing, fieldfare, and blackbird flew up into a tall crack willow on the river bank, chattering away, waiting for me to pass by. I was walking over fields by. I had the history of the river written across them; several small ox-bow ponds were now some distance away from the present channel, and lines of trees marked where the bank once stood. I stopped at the edge of the largest pool and watched

a male mute swan, a Canada goose and several pairs of mallard move out from the shallows across towards the opposite bank. This could have been fatal for the mallard, because suddenly a fox broke cover from a large bramble patch on the far bank and trotted quickly away across the field into a small wood — it had probably been lying in wait for a meal to come within striking distance. It was striking when the fox looked its best, in a thick red brown winter coat, black-tipped ears, and a bushy tail held straight even as it ran for shelter. I eventually reached the small weir only to find the water full of silt washed down by the recent rains, and the current leaping through a cloud of spray. Fishing was out of the question even for an expert like the kingfisher.

J M THOMPSON

صكنا من الالهل

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE Diary is in shock after stumbling across an entry in the BBC's verse anthology, The Nation's Favourite Poems. In his foreword, Griff Rhys Jones says that some "unexpected" poems crop up, and he isn't lying. Delicate readers should leave us now, as we turn to poem 89, Toilet by Hugo Williams. Sandwiched between The Ruined Maid by Thomas Hardy and Wilfred Owen's Futility, the poem describes a man's fantasies about a girl he sees on a train. It concludes as follows: "The light shining TOILET" has come on, a sign that she is lifting her skirt, talking down her pants and peeing all over my face."

At her Colchester home, Mrs Mary Whitehouse is silenced by my rendition. "Golden showers? No, I know nothing of them," she finally says. "But all the children who will be given this book for Christmas... it is an absolute shocker." Mrs Whitehouse blames the BBC. "Somebody there had to approve this, and they must be a little bit sick. I've never heard of such a thing in all my life." Never? "What more is there to say?"

ONLY days after reporting the stream of complaints about the refurbished Commons tea room (that funny little chap Alan Duncan demanded toothpicks), we learn of further problems. After the management were forced to wash the dishes last week when the main broke, a group of Labour MPs - led by the disobedient Ann Clwyd - have been whingeing about the "metallic taste" from plates and cups. The staff deny responsibility, blaming the brand of rinse they use. Where will it end?

STARTLING religious news. It is claimed that Michael Jackson's unborn child will be Jewish. Shalom, a fortnightly London paper, "exclusively reveals" that Debbie Rowe, Mr Jackson's wife, and the baby's mother, converted after being adopted by a Jewish family as a child, and under Jewish law the child takes its faith from the mother. The irony will hardly be lost on Mr Jackson himself, who was forced last year to apologise to the Jewish community for the charming couplet: "Jew me, sue me, everybody do me/ Kick me, like me, don't you black and white me" in his single They Don't Care About Us.

IF New Labour PR supremo Alastair Campbell is going home to Burnley this Christmas, we have the perfect night out. Kenny Ball and His Jazzman will play Burnley Mechanics on December 20, and the brochure promises not only seasonal tunes but also "all the classic hits". Should the box office (01282 430055) be sold out, console yourselves with Kenny's much loved festive album Christmas Dilemma, now on re-release.

HOPES rise, meanwhile, that Alastair's mannerly approach is finally rubbing off on Mr Tony Blair. On Friday, Mr Blair called the organs of the Scottish media which criticised his lack of clarity on devolution "unreconstructed wankers". Tut, tut. This is just the sort of outburst that can get a Labour MP charged with bringing the party into disrepute. Language, Anthony!

REGULAR seasonal feature, in which friends share their Christmas messages, begins today with Peter Burnley. "At a time of goodwill, it is better to avoid giving advice or guidance," says the Eltham sage. "The Diary will be in my prayers, but I doubt it will do more good than it did in the last year." Tomorrow's message will come from Terry Major-Ball.

ENDING, alas, much as we began, we come to the enchanting Sunday Times column of that famous "NIT Girl" Tara Palmer-Tomkinson. Last week Tara ran out of petrol in the Fulham Road and went to the Café de Paris ("occasionally I even amaze myself with my stamina"), but it is the past that concerns us, and Tara's memory of a Wembley gig in which "Freddie Mercury gave the first five rows the waterworks - believing in me all over them", affecting her own Riffat Ozbek jacket. It's an adorable tale which might make a fine poem, but it is also cobbler. Understandably, perhaps, Tara was confused between someone throwing water from a cup - famously, a Freddie Mercury trademark - and passing it from their bladder. The furious management of Queen is considering how to proceed. Poor Tara; but hey, that's the thing about being a Nit Girl... it never rains but it pours.

Pull all together true blues

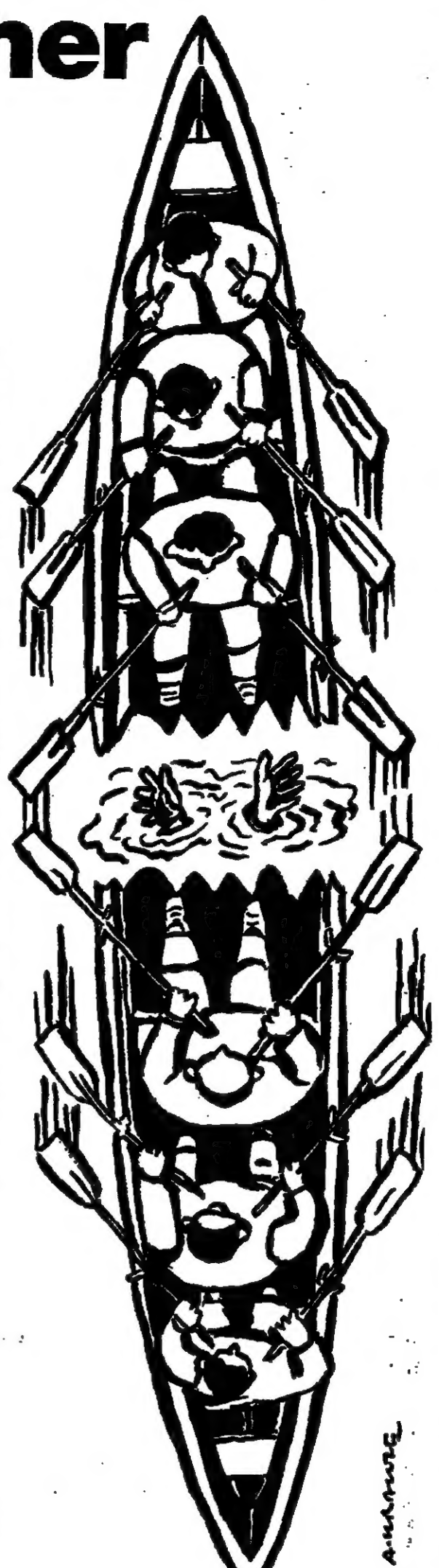
John Biffen thinks the Tories will pull together over Europe until the election, but Hugo Young, below, says they're divided over the party itself

I HAVE now sat in the Commons since 1961, and as a Westminster veteran I thought I had seen it all. But I must confess the current Tory divisions over Europe strain my memory of political drama. It is not merely division; that was paralleled by the defection of Roy Jenkins and the SDP. It is the divisions which are being pursued with such recklessness against the rocks of a general election. It seems extraordinary that the Conservative Party, with its historic commitment to power rather than ideology, should now be risking a defeat the magnitude of which is uncertain. The European debate has brought division to the Conservatives ever since the early 1960s. The early vintage of Tories included distinguished former ministers, such as Robin Turton and Derek Walker-Smith. And there was no doubt that Edward Heath and the new generation of managerial Conservatives captured the Tory head and heart in the 1960s. Tory Euro-enthusiasm reached its peak with accession to the European Community in 1972. There still remains a significant element in the Conservative Party that respects Edward Heath's ambitions for an economically and politically integrated Europe. It is an important element in the senior echelons of the party and is currently represented by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. Unlike the 1970s, the Tory Euro-enthusiasts are now in decline, and the Maastricht debate showed how the balance had tilted within the party, at least by agreement if not by vote. The arguments over the single currency have put these divisions into sharp perspective. John Major showed a sound instinctive judgment when he insisted that the British would have to reserve a view on the single currency

until Parliament had been consulted. For many Tories, who regarded themselves as practical Europeans, the Maastricht treaty took Britain to the limit of European integration. These Tories were not strong sceptics, but they felt the development of the EU should be evolutionary and economic rather than following a Franco-German political alliance. In practical terms, such Tories also objected (perhaps cynically) that the Single Act was bringing about more bureaucracy than free trade. These soft sceptics are now everywhere on the Tory benches. They have been the growth stock in the recent European debates. Finally, there are the more committed European sceptics, who include myself. They believe the effective powers of the EU are now many more than they were in the hand of zealots who opposed the 1972 European Act and they contain a growing number of senior Tories, including that recent recruit, David Heathcoat-Amory. John Major has the thankless task of trying to reconcile these disparate forces. We now have a situation where an impending general election is not compelling a dose of electoral common sense. The Euro-enthusiasts believe that the sceptics represent an extremist tradition and that they are neo-Thatcherites, devoted to unrealistically low taxation. The Euro-enthusiasts also believe that John Redwood and his colleagues will do the kind of harm to modern

Conservatism that Tony Benn did to the Labour Party. The Euro-sceptics, on the other hand, believe that the public in general, as well as Tory enthusiasts, are wholly disenchanted with Europe, and want the participation recast in terms of free trade. The rejection of a single currency is the policy's touchstone; it is claimed that it could give the Conservatives a distinctive voice capable of attracting back many of the lost voters. JOHN Major has the miserable task of keeping on top of Tory divisions over policy quarrels and personal political rancour. Lord Kilnmore, once called loyalty "the Tories' secret weapon". It might still be, but I would also plead for tolerance. The party has to get through the next few months by showing a modicum of mutual regard, or else it will be in the same political graveyard that engulfed it at the period of the Corn Laws and tariff reform. Meanwhile, we still have a nightmare of political timing. I suspect that the situation is less feverish than the current headlines suggest and possibly it does not lie in the hands of Sir John Gort. It is inconceivable that an election will happen ahead of a new register now only a few weeks away. The window of time for an election is likely to be only some six weeks, and my guess is that the Conservatives will not oblige their opponents, or their own ultrasceptics, by some fratricidal split. The party will fight together and then resume combat later. Those who relish high drama will not be disappointed. The European split will be joined with more determination than ever, and so it should be.

The Rt Hon John Biffen is MP for Shropshire North



A. Murray

Fighting in the water as the boat sinks

Commentary

THE Conservative Party isn't fighting about the election. It's fighting about what happens after the election. The soul of the corpse is now what's being disputed. The last shred of doubt about that has been dispelled by the reaction to the Prime Minister's Sunday interview. This lucid, powerful performance gave any Tory still interested in winning the election, or perhaps minimising the scale of the cataclysm, a platform on which to assemble. It made a calm and logical case for the British interest and the party interest. Many Tory members and voters would settle for it. But they are no longer the party. "The party" now has to be defined as those who insist on tearing it apart. The electoral case of the anti-Europe right is a tissue of self-deception, but let us hear it. Some of them do imagine they are doing the party a favour. John Redwood's command that coming out categorically against British membership of a single currency, now or preferably ever, is the way to win. Maybe they are sincere. Such is their own ravens obsession with the result on British sovereignty that they persuade themselves the whole country can be made to share it. Apparently they see an electorate which is about to reverse the consistent, three-year, 25-point popularity deficit it has accorded the Government, and carry Mr Major

slot in triumph because he has been forced to state, thanks to the higher wisdom of his backbenchers, that the pound will not enter Euro in the first wave. This is an improbable prophecy. It somehow taxes the credulity of anyone still capable of reasonably detached estimation. Even as a proposition on its own, it sounds like a doubtful call. But compared with the certainty of its parallel consequences, it is laughable. It cannot be made by serious people whose prime interest is in election victory. Insisting on it now, with every candidate every day, produces the visible, audible, entirely unrespectable consequences of a party rabidly divided: not a happy picture, by all the arguings, to give the voters. And insisting on it to the point of success - while "the straggle goes on", as Sir George Gardiner MP promises with relish - involves forcing a surrender out of the only Prime Minister the party has got, in abject retreat from the "leadership" they're constantly beseeching him to show. In any case, the battle of substance is one the right has already won. This is the final proof. If it was needed, of their extraordinarily bad faith, they aren't fighting to stop anything that's in danger of happening under a Tory government. That contest was won, game set and match, when a united leadership conceded in April that the right would have to be a referendum before Britain entered Euro. The right have already made it absolutely certain that Prime Minister Major and Chancellor Clarke, carried back to power by some hideous alchemy in 1997, will not

be able to propose British membership, however powerful the rational, pragmatic arguments for it might then turn out to be, because they will never volunteer for the massive destructive event that a referendum campaign would instantly become. In terms of the election, the right are shooting at a phantom. If their intent was the election, they would be letting Mr Major get on with the job he described on Sunday, being a cogent voice at the table of a vital negotiation, arguing against a convergence-fudge that could wreck the entire EU economy, taking advantage of the amazing fact that, despite the demented rage that now dominates the psyche of the governing party, the EU is apparently still willing to listen to the British leader. WITH everything secured against the frightful danger of a sterling being replaced by the euro, the normal political instincts of the normal party politicians would be to assemble on the platform he has now, quite unambiguously, provided. But they won't. They are no longer normal, rational politicians. They have moved on. They've given up on a Tory victory in any circumstances. But even if they hadn't, they've decided that control of the party by their faction is more important than control of the country by their party. This is their driving preoccupation, and they now see a chance to make it happen. It is an insidious campaign, being conducted to cumulative effect: the assertion of a

Euro-sceptic majority for which there's no proof, the creation of a hardwired agenda that will carry all before it, the extraction of commitments that erode what remains of the leader's freedom, the creation of a climate that renders inconceivable anything other than a wholly Euro-phobic stance after the election of a Labour government. A crucial part of this positioning is the preparation of scapegoats. Serving that role, Kenneth Clarke is named as the man whom the leader might most usefully sacrifice. But, since that is now impossible, the man who can be blamed after the election for the humiliation it is about to bring. Rational politicians, again, would be doing their best to magnify and exalt the minister who has delivered the core of their case for re-election. Instead of that, Mr Clarke, in his turn, is being driven to think about the post-election scenario. Just as much as Mr Redwood, he is conducting himself in post-electoral mode. He hasn't initiated this miseducated struggle, but is obliged to prepare his part in it or face

the annihilation of his wing of the party. So he, too, has been doing his best to stake out positions; among other things, by facing the leader in and guarding against concessions to the phobes. What Clarke partly fears about the kind of surrender which the Gardiners and Redwoods are still bent on demanding is that it would undermine Britain's negotiating position, in just the way Mr Major cogently described. But what really terrifies him is knowing that a surrender over Euro would be but a prelude to the assault by the right on Britain's continuing membership of the EU itself. There's now, I believe, no chance of that struggle not being joined. Nor will it be a secular contest, of which the rest of the country can expect to be merry spectators. Rather like an Euro to which starting does not belong, the fate of the Tory Party will affect members and non-members with equal potency. Spurning their leader's final effort to impress them into reason, the phobic wing have decided to fight to the death.

No justice yet for Hillsborough

Phil Scraton wants full disclosure of evidence and how it was got

THE intensity of the outcry over injustices endured by those involved in the Hillsborough disaster is unprecedented. For nearly eight years they have lived in the vain hope that legal processes would answer their questions. Lord Justice Taylor found the police were culpable in compensation rulings, but admitted fault, as did the Attorney General in a statement to the Commons. Yet the Director of Public

Prosecutions considered that there was insufficient evidence to justify prosecuting any South Yorkshire police officer. The longest inquests in English legal history resulted in a verdict of accidental death. Our research over six years demonstrates inadequacy and dishonesty in the inquests; a non-adversarial process which regularly fails the bereaved. All who died, including children, had blood alcohol levels taken. This is usually done

as an indicator of negligence and has never included all victims; from the outset, police and coroner assumed that fans contributed to their own deaths. The inquests were in two parts: initial inquests for each family, and a broader hearing. Families heard synopses of witness statements, compiled by West Midlands police officers of the investigation team which serviced the enquiries. The families had hundreds of questions to ask

but were denied the right to cross-examine, because witnesses were never called. Of the thousands of statements taken, most never entered the public domain. The bereaved were dependent on the coroner's discretion to call witnesses. Crucial police evidence was never heard nor cross-examined. And the coroner's decision to impose a 3.15pm cut-off on all evidence meant even accounts of the deaths were not heard. We have not yet been told

the story of the process of statement-taking and selectivity by the authorities. And the accuracy of medical evidence is also in doubt. The entire process of the inquests was flawed. And the accidental verdict was a majority verdict - following the coroner's direction that accidental death could include negligence by any of the parties. Only when the investigating agencies reveal all the evidence and those culpable are held responsible will the suffering of injustice be eased. Prof Phil Scraton is Director of the Hillsborough Project and co-author of No Last Rights, An In-Depth Study of Hillsborough (Tel 01825 284378, £12)

The meter is ticking on the toxic tax



George Monbiot

THIS month, Parliament will be discussing a set of new laws governing the recycling of packaging. Devised in closed meetings with manufacturers, whose minutes the Government refuses to disclose, the regulations will be the minimum possible response to the European directive on packaging waste: a fraction of the effort made by most European countries. But at least the Government has responded, which is more than can be said for its approach to a less visible but even more menacing problem: the recycling of household waste. Manufacturers, able to set their own standards, have no interest in reclaiming the tiny quantities of solvents or heavy metals such of their products contains. Local authorities can't afford to do the job for them. Instead, the Government relies on "co-disposal": mixing toxic waste with other refuse in landfill sites. As a result, heavy metals threaten to contaminate the groundwater all over Britain. The Government argues that further regulation would be unworkable, but there are other ways. Yet a survey of the consultancy Save Waste And Prosper found people stacking up half-empty bottles of weedkiller, paint and oil cans in their garages and garden sheds, rather than allow them to be released into the environment. Two months ago, the German government responded to its own householders' concerns with an act requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for everything they produce, throughout its life cycle. Already, German companies are designing electronic goods which can be easily repaired, upgraded, reused or recycled, rather than simply dumped when they become obsolete. Yet again, Britain will discover a new trade deficit when the Commission finally forces us to comply with its directives. Without leadership, all we have left to cling to is a few voluntary schemes and the goodwill of a handful of progressive manufacturers. B&Q is trying to reduce the volatile organic compounds in its paint by 30 per cent. In 10 places in Britain, community groups collect paint from householders, sort it out and give it to charities. Some councils are persuading car drivers not to tip their waste oil down the road drain but to take it to a garage for recycling; drivers, though not garages, have responded well. But these wastes are the easiest ones to handle. Most of the poisons we dump will only disappear with the kind of help which comes from legislation. In the meantime, I won't be buying any new rechargeable batteries - however environmentally-friendly they purport to be - until there's somewhere to put the old ones.

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Raphael Samuel

Keeper of our shared memory

FROM his base at Ruskin College in Oxford, the historian Raphael Samuel, who has died of cancer aged 62, transformed himself into an institution. For more than 30 years he was settled in his niche as a common-or-garden lecturer at that crucible of working class adult education and during that time he became an inescapable presence in the historical profession. A key figure in the birth of the radical History Workshop in the late 1960s, he was an academic who worked from his discipline's margins, but increasingly exerted pressure on its centre. So, by 1984 it was Samuel, marginal man, who delivered the James Ford special lecture in English history at Oxford University.

Samuel loved obituaries. He read them with characteristic verve and engagement. He wrote many, pouring warmth and erudition into them. He reflected on the form itself, curious about its historical origins; from hints in R W Southern's *The Making of the Middle Ages* he decided its true historical locus lay in medieval monastic life. He was fascinated by the current revival of obituaries turning, in this case, to a rather different source — the American cultural theorist Fredric Jameson's conceptions of postmodernity and of a "nostalgia for the present".

In part, his desire to unravel the secrets of the obituary amongst many which, at various times, possessed him. But in a larger sense the determination to commemorate the dead lay at the heart of his extraordinary, incomparable passion for the past.

In this he was like a man driven. Consistently un-kempt, he lived the life of the mind, while physically possessing the air of an insomniac and a metemorphosis which seemed impatient to burn up the calories the moment they entered his body. I always thought of him as more diminutive than he actually was, pitted against odds larger than he. He was a chaotic, bohemian Prometheus in the face of an unrelenting sense of self, dedicated to retrieving for all manner of people their memories and their dignity.

Yet for all his activism, the idea that his own life should widely be commemorated would have seemed to him, I think, a bit shocking, or improper. The origins of this reticence, and of much else in the life of Raphael Samuel, lie in his youthful commitment to communism and specifically the Communist Party of Great Britain. "Commitment" here only weakly conveys the fervour

with which he embraced the movement. In a celebrated series of essays published in *New Left Review* in 1985 — at a moment when British communism was on the point of unravelling — he attempted to explain to a younger, more laid-back generation the intellectual and emotional life of the trouble-maker. "To be a communist," he wrote, "was to have a complete social identity".

He was, in the 1940s, a schoolboy communist growing up in relative impoverishment. He shared the existential intellectual world with his mother to whom, for Christmas 1960, he gave a copy of *In Defence of Materialism* by the "father of Russian Marxism", Georgy Plekhanov. He was becoming a young activist, making his own the communist neighbourhoods in north London, St Pancras in particular. During the war years he spent some time in Slough, west of London, around the grand estate where his mother was working and organising.

He read the *Daily Worker* and the *Tractor Song* in Russian. The first movie he saw recoured the heroic role of children in the Russian revolution of 1905. While still at school in the late 1940s, he joined with his elders who had formed the justly renowned historians' group

The determination to commemorate the dead lay at the heart of his extraordinary, incomparable passion for the past

of the Communist Party, bringing him into contact with such figures as Christopher Hill, Eric Hobsbawm and E P Thompson. Later, when the imperatives of militancy combined with what — from a contemporary aspect — look like the imperatives of romance, it was of course a comrade who became the object of his affections, which were first declared on Arthur's Seat, in Edinburgh, a suitably bracing arcadia.

At Balliol College, Oxford, in the early 1950s, under the benevolent eye of his tutor, Christopher Hill, Raphael Samuel immersed himself in historical study. His tyro activities continued apace. Commanded by the Party to get his first, he did just that.

In 1966 came the great crisis in the international communist movement. There was Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's "secret speech" on Stalin's crimes followed by the Red Army's crushing of the Hungarian Revolution. Samuel's world fell apart. From that moment his former being and his sense of self became, as he described it later, "a lost

world". Putting himself back together again, and reconstructing from the debris a political or moral justification for the study of history, demanded an intellectual journey, conducted by him with a curious mix of imagination and intransigence, intellectual sophistication and self-declared theoretical naivety.

He became a member of the group centred around the *Universities Left Review*, which was to become the *New Left Review*. In 1960 and within which he was a key mover. At the end of the 1950s he was also a co-founder of London's Partisan Coffee House in Soho, the new left's short-lived contribution to the coffee bar boom.

In place of the Party and its cadres, there emerged a more democratic — and modest — conception of "the people" or "the popular" for whom, and to whom, historians should speak. In place of scripture, truth handed down by the Party, there arose a more imaginative mode of writing encouraging people to think for themselves about the world as a historical place and challenging that which seemed ordained by nature to be permanent. But Samuel's original cast of mind was still evident: obsessive, driven, and — for all its populism — eccentric, a mentality strangely

askew from the imperatives of a modern culture. Conventionally, reputations of prestigious historians derive from the books they write and their silent elevation through academic hierarchies. On neither count, for most of his professional life, could Raphael Samuel have claimed even a look-in. His first single-authored book *Theatres of Memory* appeared when he was touching 60 — a preposterous way to conduct oneself according to the later norms of academic performance. Far from rising through the ranks and heading for all the pomp of a professorship, he was happy in his chosen milieu of adult education at Ruskin, and genuinely unimpressed by anything which might smack of careerism. Only earlier this year, in March, was he finally persuaded to apply for a chair. He moved to the University of East London to launch a new centre for research into East End life. It developed a lifelong interest which had already registered in the marvellous oral history biography which in 1981 he

had coaxed out of the East End criminal, Arthur Harding, *East End Underworld*. Samuel undermined the professional mysteries of the archive, seeing in primary research the potential for democratising historical study. At Ruskin he was fond of exhorting untrained students to immerse themselves straight away in the sources. When he lectured, he was in the habit of bringing the archive with him, first in briefcases and shopping-bags, later in a natter array of shoulder-bags. Like a fair-ground magician he would pick, as if at random, from a profusion of files and books and scraps of paper, nipping from pile to pile, delighted to share the fruits of his research with his audience.

From this conviction about the democratic properties of historical study emerged the History Workshop. Initially this harnessed the Ruskin ethos of "worker-historians" with the more cosmopolitan intellectual spirit, exemplified in what was then the mildly subversive idea of social history, which could be found at Oxford's St Antony's College. In March 1987 the first History Workshop meeting was advertised, "A Day with the Chartists".

The History Workshop was a product of the late 1960s but it has flourished since. Annual meetings, particularly in the early days, were exuberant affairs, serious-minded carnival of enthusiasts for history. Regional networks mushroomed. In 1978 the first issue of *History Workshop Journal* was published. This was inspired by a small group of intellectuals which had emerged from Ruskin, from Oxford, and from the History Workshop networks. The journal was established on militantly democratic principles which — in a very different environment — later generated still more upheaval. But the presence of Raphael Samuel and of his erstwhile partner, Anna Davin, were formative and profound.

To read the run of the journal, or to go through the 30 or 40 volumes published in the book-club which accompanied the journal's early years, is to witness the growth of the historian's mind. In the editorials, countless contributions, "enthusiasms" and reports, can be found the testament not only to Samuel's intellectual vitality and love of his history, but to his conception of what history, democratised, might look like.

This massive intellectual output, with every word open to collective scrutiny did not encourage conventional courtesies. What made it happen, as it did for similar ventures, was an intellectual, political and emotional turmoil.



A life of the mind... consistently unkempt, physically Samuel possessed the air of an insomniac STEFAN WALLGREN

Invariably, Raphael Samuel was mild-mannered and the last to break. When confronted, a bewildered innocence crossed his face. But he remembered, dramatised and argued about in the present. His work took on a hue more familiar in cultural studies than in conventional history. This shift was marked by the publication of his article entitled *The Philosophy of Brick*. It explored the revived penchant for inspiration in the reflexes of the people.

In 1994, as well as delivering the James Ford lecture, he published the first volume of his *Theatres of Memory: Past and Present in Contemporary Culture*. It was a series which aimed to look at the way the past is active in the present. That first volume

carried him along the heritage trail and into domestic DIY, inspiring him to conduct a compendious inventory of all manner of contemporary retro-chic. Through the 1980s his intellectual concerns had shifted from reconstructing the lost experiences of the powerless to a concern with the mechanisms by which the past is remembered, dramatised and argued about in the present. His work took on a hue more familiar in cultural studies than in conventional history. This shift was marked by the publication of his article entitled *The Philosophy of Brick*. It explored the revived penchant for inspiration in the reflexes of the people.

Light, a union of love, comradeship and hard intellectual sparring: their come came a place of warm entertainment, an axis for an assortment of networks, and an effective workshop of ideas in its own right. Raphael Samuel believed that the emotional charge of obituaries derived from their symbolic power to "defy the idea of extinction". The symbolic power of his lifetime's work provided an impressive dignity for those ill-served by history, and worked to the same effect.

SMH Schwarz

Raphael Samuel, historian, born September 28, 1934; died December 9, 1996

Mary Leakey

A dawn for history in the dust of the gorge

BY NO stretch of any imagination could the palaeontologist Mary Leakey, who has died at the age of 83, have been called an ordinary woman. Or an ordinary wife, mother or house-manager or ordinary scientist. Her fame arose as one consequence of her marriage to Louis Leakey or, contrarily, his arose partly as one consequence of marrying her. Very little was straightforward about either of their lives, or their work, their relationship together or the family they produced.

Even Mary Leakey's upbringing in London was original. Her father, whom she adored, was a travelling landscape painter, often living for years away from Britain. He was an inspirational companion, nurturing her immediate interest in archaeology, taking her on walks whenever and wherever possible until, most devastatingly, he died when she was 13. In the next few years she was expelled from a couple of schools and her childhood ended without academic qualification. Then, as a diligent amateur archaeologist, glider pilot, and with a sharp wit in either French or English, she met Louis Leakey.

He was married, but not averse to other relationships. He had a daughter and his wife was pregnant again when he met Mary Nicol, having already been impressed by her illustrations of stone tools. He was 30, she was 20, and she even stayed at Louis's home in Cambridge for a week when his wife was coming to the end of what had been a difficult pregnancy. Mary felt no guilt, perceiving the marriage as no kind of marriage, and drew ever closer to Louis. Even the birth of a longed-for son did not disrupt the new relationship. One month later, in January 1964, Louis informed his

wife that he had fallen in love with Mary and would be taking her to Africa. The divorce did not take place for almost three years but, the moment formalities had been completed, Mary and Louis were married in a Herfordshire registry office, with a somewhat astonished Maasai serving as best man. Back in Africa again life was not easy for the new pair, mainly for a terrible lack of funds. Louis's work as fossil-finder was not yet properly appreciated. He had proudly proclaimed to the powers-that-be an exciting discovery, believed to be part of human ancestry, but then had trouble re-finding the actual site, thus earning opprobrium rather than a grant. In those early years Mary pursued archaeology more than he was able to do, a huge paid-for project on the Elkuyu consuming the greatest part of her time.

Their first child, Jonathan, was born in November 1940. "I quite liked having a baby," Mary wrote, "but I had no intention of allowing motherhood to disrupt my work as an archaeologist." Within a few weeks of that birth she was off on another expedition while Louis stayed home to help with the baby. Her next child, a daughter, died from dysentery when three months old, and thereafter there were two more boys, Richard and Philip. The three well-past all achieved fame in their different fields, Jonathan as an animal collector, Richard as a palaeontologist, and Philip as a politician.

To say there was continual harmony in the Leakey household would be to snuff the thread of truth well past breaking point. Other families have occasional squabbles but the Leakey mealtimes were, or so it would seem from biographies, more like open warfare.



Digging deep... Olduvai Gorge made Leakey famous

Mary would listen to the debates, if that is correct enough a term, and would then surprise others by making wry, irreverent and sometimes caustic remarks. What could have been done? she asked years later: "It was something the children had to sort out for themselves". The most famous day in the Leakey story arrived in July 1969. Louis was ill with a

fever and Mary went off alone to another section of Olduvai Gorge, the valley in Tanzania which had already provided innumerable animal remains as well as artefacts. For over two decades the Leakeys had been working there, a fact testifying to their extraordinary diligence. It is a hot place, far from anywhere with the ordinary comforts of life — such as running water,

but they had been determined to find a man to go with all those tools and bits of fossil animals. They spoke of "our man", as if knowing he would be unobtainable — one day. It was Sunday on the 17th, just when the sun was making it most difficult to distinguish fossil bones from rocky stones, she noticed a bone "not lying loose on the surface but projecting from beneath", as she later wrote. "It had a hominid look, but the bones seemed enormously thick — too thick, surely." Then, as she brushed away the soil, two teeth emerged set in a curve of a jaw. Instantly her doubts vanished and she drove swiftly back to Louis. His fever vanished instantly and, after he, too, had seen the teeth, "we almost cried with sheer joy," as he wrote for the sponsoring National Geographic magazine. "... At last we had reached our goal — we had discovered the world's earliest known human."

Zinjanthropus boisei, the "man from East Africa", not only initiated much of East African hominid history but brought true renown to the Leakey endeavours. Mary had found it, but Louis argued its status within the human tree. She kept quiet, particularly on a visit to South Africa where they even examined the *australopithecines* fossil fragments which might, or might not, be closely related to *Zin*. Louis was adamant about their dissimilarity. She, gaining credibility as an independent thinker, kept her opinions to herself, thus enhancing her reputation as a cautious scientist, a label which Louis was never able to achieve.

A few years later, the two Leakeys were each offered an honorary doctorate by the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Louis declined. As a Kenyan citizen he

could not accept an award from a country not even recognised — for its apartheid policies — by the Kenyan government. Mary, without an academic qualification to her name, happily accepted and travelled south alone before returning as Dr Leakey. The incident did not cause but marked a parting of the Leakey ways. She had been used to saying: "Well, we'll have to ask Louis about that." By the end of the 1960s, Olduvai had become, as one writer called it, "her show". She could find hominid remains, direct the

excavations, and even acquire the funding. The pair did not so much part company as spend little time in each other's company, he mainly in Nairobi and her most often at Olduvai. Parting became absolute when Louis died in 1972, but family feuding continued even then. Mary arranged for his cremation but Richard countermanded an instruction by having him buried within Kilimuland, arguing that he was Kikuyu and such people did not accept cremation. (Mary then stipulated that she had no wish to be buried in such a place. Instead, she preferred to have her ashes scattered at Olduvai.)

By no means did Mary stop work when the reason for her arrival in East Africa had vanished. Indeed, she stood more solidly on her own two

feet than ever before. In 1978 she convened a press conference in Washington DC, a solo performance. "I used to play second fiddle to (Louis) because I really didn't like all that fuss and attention." At that meeting she told of 12 hominid fossils which had been found. Standing alone at the podium, and giving her descriptions, Dr Mary Leakey had truly arrived.

This was even more the case when she discovered the Laetoli footprints in 1977. Many animal prints had already been encountered at this place (about an hour's drive from Olduvai), and everyone at the site was on the lookout for hominid indentations. When eventually found they were not only positively bipedal, thus affirming that people (of a kind) were walking upright all those years ago, but one set of prints was superimposed upon another. This fact made identification harder but seemed to make that trio of individuals, strolling along on fresh volcanic ash, come to life even more vividly than fossilised remains.

Mary collected several more doctorates after the Johannesburg award and many other forms of honour. She also gathered antagonists, when colleagues in her field became rivals or foe. She also tended to regard the famous gorge named Olduvai as her preserve — which, in a sense, it was, as she had brought such lustre to its name. It would be a fitting location for her ashes, even if distant from the remains of the equally difficult, equally eccentric and no less brilliant individual who was her partner for so long.

Anthony Smith

Mary Nicol Leakey, palaeontologist, born February 8, 1913; died December 9, 1996

Birthdays

John Birt, director-general BBC, 52; Kenneth Branagh, actor, director, 36; Harry Cohen, Labour MP, 47; Sir John Collins, chief executive, Vesty Group, 56; Prof Barry Cunliffe, archaeologist, 57; Rumer Godden, playwright, poet and author, 88; Ann Gloag, co-founder, Stagecoach Holdings, 64; Cecil Hallett, former general secretary, ASU, 97; Lord Harris of High Cross, founder, president, Institute of Economic Affairs, 73; Nicholas Henderson, racehorse trainer, 48; Michael Jopling, MP, former Conservative minister, 66; Joan Kenworthy, principal, St Mary's C of E, Durham, 63; Jahangir Khan, squash player, 33; Nicolas Krasnotov, concert organist, 65; Raphael Maklouf, sculptor, 58; Michael Manley, former prime minister of Jamaica, 72; Sir Jeremy Morse, banker, former chairman, Lloyds Bank, 68; Shirley Ritchie, QC, 96; Sir Angus Stirling, director, Greenwich Trust, former director-general, the National Trust, 63; Kathryn Stott, concert pianist, 36; Chad Stuart, rock singer, 53; Colin Turner, former rector, Glasgow Academy, 63; Michael Wright, writer, architect, fine art and conservation, former director, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 60.

Death Notices

MATTHEW SHENSTONE December 3 1985 - December 3 1996 We shall be saying our goodbyes and remembering lightness to the St. Paul's Church Crematorium, 12.30pm, on Thursday 12th December at 12.30pm. Funeral arrangements by Miss Smith, 89 Haywards Road, Winton Road SW7 1RD Tel. 01753 545 276.

ROSEMARY Elizabeth on November 30th 2006 of Woodbridge, Suffolk at Ipswich Crematorium, West Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk, December 12th at 11.30am. Flowers if desired, to C. B. Button & Sons, Woodbridge.

In Memoriam

FRYMAN PMA died 10/12/96. Remembrance with love and affection by his dear partner. To place your announcement telephone 0171 732 4567. Fax 0171 732 4129.

سید کاظم الامجدی

'Rocky' makes WTO pitch, page 12

Brussels gets tough on BA, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer. Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Job fears for brewery workers



Ian Lang (above) refers Bass deal to MMC, as brewer puts Hooper's Hooch dresses on mannequins at the Doc Martens store in London. PHOTOGRAPHER: MARTIN APLEBY/STEWART GOLDSTEIN

Referral to MMC thwarts Bass bid

Liza Buckingham

THE daring attempt by Bass to regain its position as the country's biggest brewer could become ensnared by government efforts to avoid bad publicity over job losses just before a general election. City analysts are predicting...

pany to leapfrog over Scottish & Newcastle, which usurped top slot last year following its acquisition of Courage. That deal gave S&N about 30 per cent of beer production...



of concessions, the Office of Fair Trading recommended a monopolies investigation of the deal. Britain now has four big brewers, although there were seven just four years ago.

were met to satisfy competition worries. Although any delay to Bass being able to consolidate Carlsberg-Tetley will reduce its potential cost savings, most analysts are still betting the company will be allowed to go ahead with the purchase...

Bears kill the Bull's float

THE owners of a pub which is the model for The Bull in The Archers have abandoned plans for a flotation because of the market's volatility, writes Tony May.

ing paid hundreds of thousands of pounds in fees to financial advisers. Market sources said investors were now wary of putting funds into untraded equities and more casualties were bound to emerge.

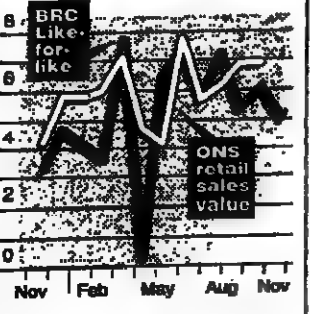
Pace of retail sales surge slows

Sarah Ryle

HOPES that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will leave interest rates on hold when he meets Bank of England governor Eddie George tomorrow are fuelled by evidence today of a slowdown in the retail sales boom...

Retail sales

% annual increase in retail sales value, unadjusted



the same time a year ago — the lowest level since April. The BRC survey shows the underlying rate of sales growth in the three months to...

November has also fallen, to 5.3 per cent, with competitive pressures holding back price rises and the threat of higher interest rates making consumers cautious.

years, according to the Office for National Statistics. The rise in sterling has come through dramatically and rapidly, suggesting that prices remain under intense pressure, said Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Japanese bank Nikko Europe.

Bank staff fight to have Christmas eve afternoon off

Faustine Springett

MORE than 35,000 staff at Lloyds and NatWest may strike on Christmas eve afternoon, banking union Bifu warned yesterday.

want time to join their families and enjoy Christmas. He said that there was no evidence that customers wanted a full banking service on Christmas eve afternoon...

Labour could force utilities to share 'excessive' profits

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

LABOUR yesterday confirmed it was considering a plan to share out excessive profits of the privatised utilities between customers and shareholders.

agreed or "normal" profit level. This would be on top of the planned one-off "windfall tax" on utilities' profits.

the regulators had anticipated. Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator, criticised the Government yesterday for failing to introduce legislation to compel water companies to pay compensation to customers forced to use standpipes during droughts, writes Nicholas Barnister.

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Notebook

Salutary warning for investors



Edited by Alex Brummer

AFTER all the turbulence of last week normality has been suitably restored to equities and the foreign exchange in the latest trading session.

generously waved through, allowing the company to claim nearly a third of the beer market at the expense of a meagre 115 pubs. But the merger between Bass and Carlsberg-Tetley is the last big deal possible in a rapidly concentrating brewing industry, and should be reviewed.

Cheaper calls

NOBODY should miss the significance of Otel's latest proposals for price controls on British Telecom's network charges. At the end of the day customers should be better off.

The net effect of wholesale price regimes will be to protect BT to reduce interconnection charges — which other operators pay BT for use of its network — either by regulation or by competitive pressure.

Bass challenge

BASS could have hoped for kinder treatment from Ian Lang. But if the competition rules are to mean anything, the group's attempt to leap back into number one position with a near-40 per cent share of the British beer market has to be tested by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The regulator will be expecting BT and rivals such as Mercury to pass on the benefits of lower interconnection prices to consumers rather than boost profits. The companies must now deliver.

Zeneca and Unichem study plan for 'privatised' clinics

Liza Buckingham

DRUGS group Zeneca yesterday emerged alongside Unichem, the pharmacy chain, as possible bidders for a government pilot scheme of privately run health services that would be under contract to National Health Service trusts.

big supermarket groups are studying the idea of expanding their existing pharmacy businesses into more extensive medical operations.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA.



Supplied by Reuters Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

American Football
Favre on fire to buck Broncos

Mark Tran in New York

THE Denver Broncos without John Elway at quarterback are a bit like a fish without a drink. But a 41-6 rout at the hands of the Green Bay Packers was a sobering experience that they had longed for.

The Broncos have emerged as the pride of the American Football Conference with a powerful running game to back up the strong arm of Elway. They arrived at a freezing Lambeau Field having already clinched their division and home-field advantage through the play-offs, and as the team most likely to snap a 12-year losing streak in the Super Bowl for the AFC. But they faced the slight problem of the Green Bay Packers, the most likely contenders from the National Conference.



Crunch match... the Pack's Edger Bennett wins a first down the hard way

arm. The quarterback's two interceptions halted the half collecting his senses after being knocked silly in Green Bay's first possession. Then Favre hit his stride and began the deluge just before the half with a 73-yard drive that consumed only 34 seconds. It ended with Favre sidestepping a Broncos defender and hurling a 14-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman to give Green Bay a 13-3 lead.

Favre went on to throw four TD passes, including a 51-yarder to Freeman, a one-yarder to Keith Jackson, the tight-end, and a 25-yarder to Freeman. The Packers played with a cast on a broken forearm. They played like the team with tradition. We came out," said George Seifert, the 49ers coach.

The Super Bowl champions, the Dallas Cowboys, returned to the top of the NFC East with a 10-6 win in Arizona as Michael Irvin caught a 50-yard pass from Troy Aikman for the only touchdown. The best offensive game of the season, the Pittsburgh Steelers, won the AFC Central by overcoming the San Diego Chargers 16-13 and kept their unbeaten record at Three Rivers Stadium.

Huntingdon runners and riders with form guide

- 1.20 Surrey Steamer
1.40 Amber Spark (new)
1.50 Moccasin
2.00 Starburst
2.30 Starburst (old)
3.00 At The Grove
3.30 Coxy Mite

- 12.30 PLAT JOCKEYS CLAIMING HURDLE (11) 110yds 12.30
1 12313-4 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 4203-4 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 4203-5 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 4203-6 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 4203-7 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 4203-8 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 4203-9 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 4203-10 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 4203-11 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 4203-12 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 4203-13 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 4203-14 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 1.30 WHAT A BUCK HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 1.30
1 156-27 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 156-28 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 156-29 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 156-30 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 156-31 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 156-32 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 156-33 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 156-34 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 156-35 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 156-36 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 156-37 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 156-38 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 1.30 FINEST OF BEST HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 1.30
1 156-39 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 156-40 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 156-41 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 156-42 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 156-43 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 156-44 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 156-45 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 156-46 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 156-47 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 156-48 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 156-49 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 156-50 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 2.00 NEW PETER CROSSMAN NEW HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 2.00
1 156-51 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 156-52 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 156-53 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 156-54 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 156-55 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 156-56 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 156-57 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 156-58 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 156-59 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 156-60 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 156-61 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 156-62 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 2.30 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3.00 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3.30 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4.00 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4.30 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5.00 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5.30 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6.00 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6.30 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7.00 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7.30 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8.00 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8.30 (See 2.00) LITTLE MARTINIA, J R Kavanagh (2-1) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 3.00 NATIONAL JOCKEYS HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 3.00
1 156-63 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 156-64 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 156-65 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 156-66 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 156-67 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 156-68 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 156-69 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 156-70 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 156-71 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 156-72 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 156-73 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 156-74 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 3.30 NATIONAL JOCKEYS HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 3.30
1 156-75 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 156-76 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 156-77 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 156-78 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 156-79 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 156-80 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 156-81 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 156-82 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 156-83 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 156-84 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 156-85 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 156-86 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 3.40 NATIONAL JOCKEYS HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 3.40
1 156-87 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 156-88 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 156-89 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 156-90 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 156-91 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 156-92 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 156-93 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 156-94 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 156-95 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 156-96 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 156-97 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 156-98 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 3.40 NATIONAL JOCKEYS HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 3.40
1 156-99 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 157-00 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 157-01 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 157-02 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 157-03 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 157-04 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 157-05 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 157-06 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 157-07 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 157-08 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 157-09 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 157-10 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

- 3.40 NATIONAL JOCKEYS HANDED CHASE (11) 110yds 3.40
1 157-11 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
2 157-12 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
3 157-13 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
4 157-14 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
5 157-15 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
6 157-16 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
7 157-17 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
8 157-18 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
9 157-19 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
10 157-20 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
11 157-21 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0
12 157-22 AMBER SPARK (7) (9) M Jockey 8-11-0

Racing

Dead jockey's parents plead for safer tracks

Chris Hawkins

THE family of Richard Davis last night called for an overhaul of racecourse safety standards as an inquest returned a verdict of accidental death on the 26-year-old jockey, who was crushed when Mr Sox fell on top of him after a bad fall at Southwell on July 19.

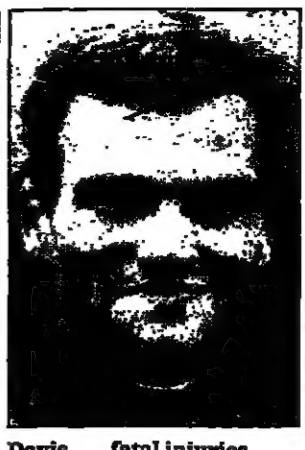
The nine-man jury at the Coroner's Court in Mansfield heard that Davis died due to heavy internal bleeding as a result of a torn liver and lacerated main vein. At the hearing, attended by Davis's parents John and Ann, it emerged that Southwell racecourse had breached medical guidelines. There was also criticism of the course doctor who had not realised the terrible extent of the jockey's injuries.

"We just hope that Richard hasn't died in vain and that improvements will be made," said Mrs Davis after the hearing. Paul Balen, the solicitor for the family, said: "The evidence has shown that the course doctor underestimated the injuries to Richard. But the family are pleased that whatever went wrong the

outcome was inevitable. The appropriate course to follow now is that there should be a general inquiry into the safety of racecourses as there have been in other sports where there have been similar accidents."

Davis was riding Mr Sox, trained by Laura Shally, in the two-mile Brighton Novices Chase when his mount fell at the first fence. He is the fourth jockey to be killed in the last 21 years. There was a delay on the track after the fall and it took 30 minutes before Davis was transferred from the course ambulance to a county ambulance which took him to hospital in Nottingham.

Dr David Layfield, the course doctor, commented: "At first I felt Davis was not very ill. He was unconscious for five minutes but revived. There were no signs of thoracic, pelvic or lung damage. The evidence was that he was concerned his condition at the time did not warrant him being taken to hospital." The Jockey Club report into the circumstances of the incident was critical of the Southwell medical arrangements, which did not comply with the laid down instructions about paramedics. Southwell had employed a



Davis... fatal injuries

private ambulance company, Ambulink, whose staff were not NHS trained and therefore not qualified to carry out certain procedures without the supervision of a doctor. It was a similar concern that led to Dr Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical adviser, to offer his resignation, after which the Jockey Club agreed to hold a formal inspection of safety arrangements at Southwell. Dr Turner remained in his post. Whether disciplinary action against Southwell will

be taken by the Jockey Club has yet to be decided, but it looks a strong possibility. The inquiry dismisses subsequent claims that Mr Sox was unfit to run. There were accusations from some quarters that Mr Sox had a fractured pelvis but the report states that "the veterinary surgeon who attended the horse earlier in the summer has confirmed that his examinations showed no evidence of any pelvic fracture" and that "neither the Jockey Club veterinary officer nor the racecourse veterinary surgeon on duty at Southwell noticed any obvious sign of lameness in the paddock or on the way to the start."

The inquiry also states satisfaction that Mr Sox's trainer Laura Shally's "training facilities met the Licensing requirements for a Permit Trained" and "that the condition of the racecourse on July 19 did not contribute to the accident." Luke Harvey, who rode in the race, was called to give evidence and said that Davis had not been able to school Mr Sox. "Richard went up to Laura Shally's stable but there was nowhere to school over fences so he ended up giving the horse a gallop," said Harvey.

Jukes rubs Forster up the wrong way

Ken Oliver

JAMIE JUKE, the former champion point-to-point rider, will not be receiving a Christmas card from trainer Tim Forster, nor will he be riding over the holiday period after his costly mistakes at Ludlow yesterday.

He was handed a 10-day ban (starting December 18) after taking the wrong course on the Forster-trained Bironi, backed to 4-5 for the HRH Prince Of Wales Chase.

Jukes had negotiated just one fence of the three-mile holiday period after his costly mistakes at Ludlow yesterday.

stand and took the jukes course. Realising his error, Jukes turned round and made after his four rivals, despite totting more than a fence in arrears. After much hard work from his embarrassed rider, Bironi had propped the tail of the field, just 10 lengths off the leader.

They were held in third place when Jukes' day of days was completed by Bironi falling at the final fence, with the race going to Opal's Tenspot. "I would take his licence away for six months," seethed Forster. "An experienced man like him who has ridden round here hundreds of times."

Plumpton

- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
1.40 Mr West
2.40 Fairhaven
2.40 Oulton Town
3.10 Lough Tully
3.40 Shoney Valley

- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
1.40 Mr West
2.40 Fairhaven
2.40 Oulton Town
3.10 Lough Tully
3.40 Shoney Valley
4.40 Alshak Colossus
4.40 Mr West
5.40 Fairhaven
5.40 Oulton Town
6.10 Lough Tully
6.40 Shoney Valley

- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
1.40 Mr West
2.40 Fairhaven
2.40 Oulton Town
3.10 Lough Tully
3.40 Shoney Valley
4.40 Alshak Colossus
4.40 Mr West
5.40 Fairhaven
5.40 Oulton Town
6.10 Lough Tully
6.40 Shoney Valley

- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
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- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
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3.10 Lough Tully
3.40 Shoney Valley
4.40 Alshak Colossus
4.40 Mr West
5.40 Fairhaven
5.40 Oulton Town
6.10 Lough Tully
6.40 Shoney Valley

Sedgefield

- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
1.40 Mr West
2.40 Fairhaven
2.40 Oulton Town
3.10 Lough Tully
3.40 Shoney Valley

- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
1.40 Mr West
2.40 Fairhaven
2.40 Oulton Town
3.10 Lough Tully
3.40 Shoney Valley
4.40 Alshak Colossus
4.40 Mr West
5.40 Fairhaven
5.40 Oulton Town
6.10 Lough Tully
6.40 Shoney Valley

- 1.40 Alshak Colossus
1.40 Mr West
2.40 Fairhaven
2.40 Oulton Town
3.10 Lough Tully
3.40 Shoney Valley
4.40 Alshak Colossus
4.40 Mr West
5.40 Fairhaven
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MOONAX, the 1994 St Leger winner and 16-1 with Ladbrokes for the Champion Hurdle next March, makes his debut over jumps in the novice hurdle event at Huntingdon this afternoon.

f sun and larks... filters will... down... to go ahead... to Sunderland

Soccer

Hauge associate conducts Halle's move to Leeds

Ian Ross

GEORGE GRAHAM's decision to make the Oldham Athletic defender Gunnar Halle his first signing since assuming control at Leeds United may reopen old wounds. The 31-year-old Norwegian is expected to put the finishing touches to his £400,000 move to the Yorkshire club today in a deal brokered by a Danish agent, Frank Mattiesen, a friend and long-time associate of the middleman Rune Hauge.

when Halle has completed the formalities of his move to Elland Road, the International Association of Football Agents will ask the world governing body Fifa to study the transfer. Halle joined Oldham from Lillestrom for a nominal fee five years ago in a deal arranged by Hauge. Graham was banished from football for his part in the infamous "bunga" scandal which saw him accept personal payments after buying players represented by Hauge. Hauge is currently barred from arranging any transfer deals after his licence was revoked in the wake of Fifa's examination of his business activities. Mattiesen, though, is an officially licensed and registered agent, having lodged the required £100,000 bond with Fifa this year. Graham made his surprise move for Halle yesterday morning, only 12 hours after learning that Liverpool's former England international centre-back John Scales had decided to join Tottenham Hotspur and not Leeds.

The manager said yesterday: "I'm pleased to have captured my first signing, particularly one so experienced. I've been keen on him for some time. He'll be a very useful addition to our squad." The man Graham replaced as manager at Leeds, Howard Wilkinson, had also made moves to sign Halle back in September shortly before he was dismissed. Halle has won 52 caps for Norway and can play either as a full-back or midfielder. Scales was preparing for his first training session with Tottenham today and may make his debut at Leeds on Saturday. Mattiesen, though, is a budding agent. "The £2.7 million defender said: 'It could be a tricky weekend but I am prepared for that.'" Graham did not appear to bear any grudges. "The boy has made a good move. This is the end of the matter. We only want players who want to play for the club."

Two-point penalty puts Brighton deeper into crisis

BRIGHTON were left 11 points adrift at the bottom of the Third Division yesterday when the Football League docked them two points and ordered them to pay the cost of a hearing into two pitch invasions during the game against Lincoln on October 1. The managerless south coast club already had a suspended sentence of a

three-point fine and a one-match ground closure hanging over them after protests at the sale of the Goldstone Ground last April. "Sadly as far as I am concerned, the committee felt it had no option but to activate part of the suspended sentence," said the FA chief executive Graham Kelly. Arsenal are poised to sign a partnership with Cannes

in the field of training and talent spotting", their manager Arsène Wenger said yesterday. Several talented players have emerged from the French first division side. In the English county, midfielder Patrick Vieira. Northern Ireland are to play Belgium in a friendly at Windsor Park on February 11.

Premier League lands £36m

THE Premier League yesterday announced a four-year £36 million sponsorship deal with the brewer Bass, an extension of the present agreement which expires next summer. It represents a 200-per-cent increase on the current four-year deal, which was for £12 million. The competition will still be known as the FA Carling Premiership. "We were in discussion with several other companies and there could have been even more money on the table," said Rick Parry, the Premier League's chief executive. "But the clubs wanted to continue their excellent partnership and the clubs were unanimous in voting for its extension." Jonathan Nye, the head of

sponsorship for Bass, refused to discuss whether the interest of other companies had helped inflate the fee. "That has to remain confidential between ourselves and the Premier League," he said. It was also announced that a committee has been set up to find a successor for Parry, who brokered the recent £300 million BSkyB television deal but joins Liverpool as executive director next summer. The committee will consist of the Premier League's non-executive chairman Sir John Quinton, Tottenham's chairman Alan Sugar, West Ham's Terry Brown, Everton's Philip Carter, Newcastle's Freddie Fletcher and a yet-to-be-named club chairman. "We want to appoint some-

body in the close season or even before if we can, but there is still a lot of thinking to be done on the subject," said Sir John. "There have already been one or two quiet and informal applications but this process is only just starting." Parry, whose intention to leave the £200,000-a-year post was announced last week, was yesterday told by the club chairman that he could work out the full six months of his notice. "I am delighted it is going to be a seamless transition," said Parry. "I have been involved in the Premier League from the start and want to see it go from strength to strength."

Rugby League

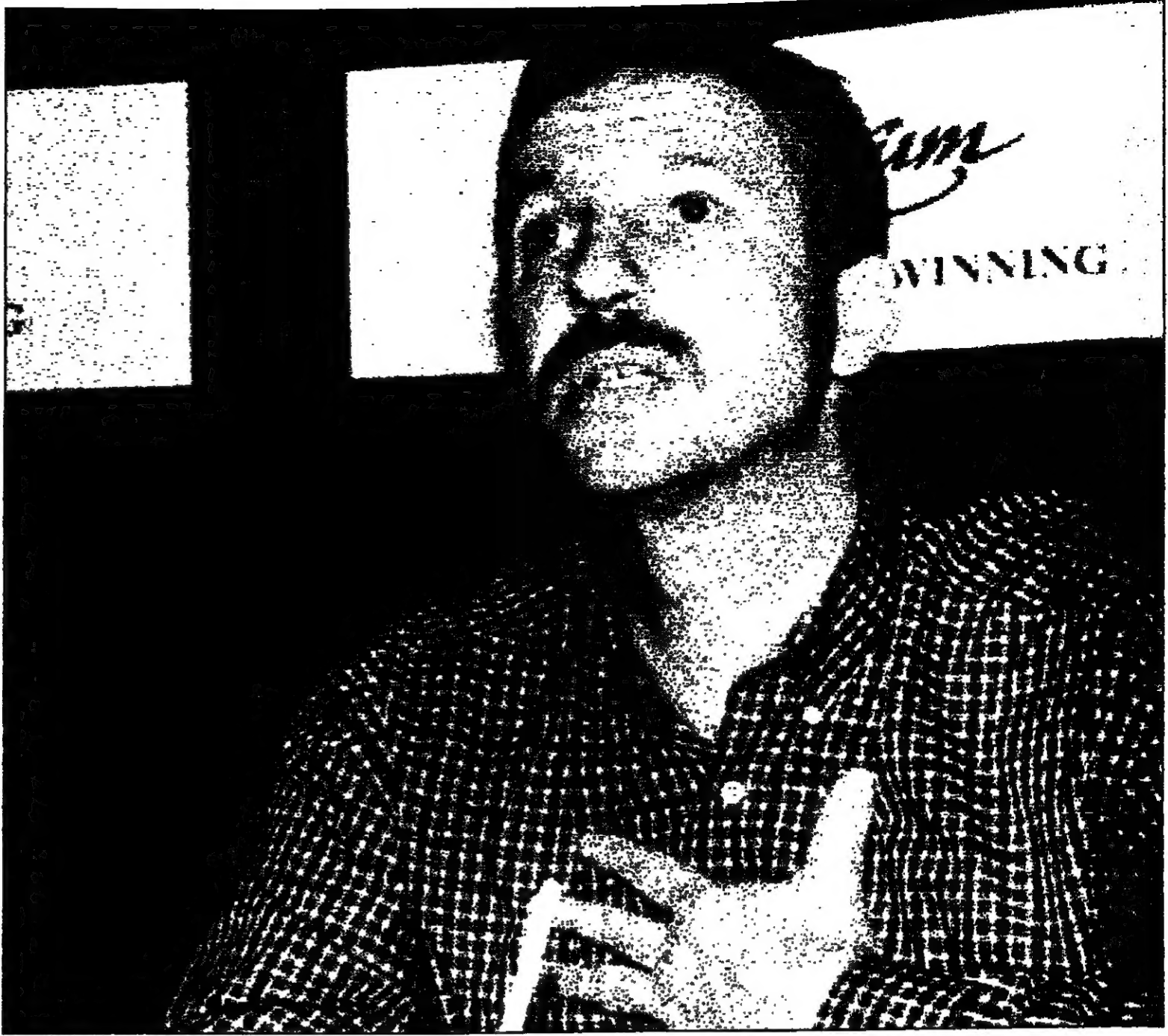
Gregory granted a chance to make Nines his lucky number

ANDY GREGORY's stock, already high, rose again yesterday when he was appointed coach to the Great Britain Super League World Nines tournament at Townsville, Australia next month. The 35-year-old former Wigan and Great Britain scrum-half has achieved impressive results as Salford Reds' coach after taking over from the Australian Garry Jack in March 1995. He took Salford to the Centenary season title and then steered them into the Super League when they again won the First Division title in August. Gregory will be one of only four English head coaches in Super League next season — the others are Andy Goodway (Oldham), John Joyner (Castleford) and Phil Larder (Sheffield) — and this appointment may represent a first step on the way to the full Great Britain job.

Ice Hockey

Yewchuk sets Cardiff on way back to top

TWO goals from Marty Yewchuk ensured the Cardiff Devils returned to the top of the Superleague as they beat the Sheffield Steelers 4-3 and put the visitors into second place. Yewchuk, who last month forced the league to back down by threatening legal action when he was banned until the end of the year for a violent incident earlier in the season, opened the scoring after two minutes of Sunday's game. And although goals from Scott Neil and Ron Shudra put the Steelers 2-1 up by the 30th minute, Yewchuk levelled four minutes later. In the third period Stefan Zieseke and Doug McCarthy gave Cardiff a two-goal cushion, and they needed it when Tommy Plommer scored a hotly disputed third for the visitors five minutes from time. The argument centred on whether the puck crossed the goal-line, and several Cardiff players reconstituted with the goal-judge positioned behind the plexiglass barrier. Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup finalists, the Nottingham Panthers and Ayr Scottish Eagles, had mixed fortunes on returning to Superleague action. The Panthers paraded the trophy before easily beating Basingstoke 6-1, Marty Dallman scoring twice. But the game was watched by the lowest crowd at a Nottingham league game for years, barely 2,100 of the 3,000 seats were occupied, said an Ice Stadium spokesman, although the club claimed 2,633 were present. Ayr were 5-2 down after 33 minutes of their game with lowly Bracknell. Eleven minutes later, however, Mark Woolf, Vince Box, with his second of the match, and Scott Young had tied it at 5-5. Jamie Steer then netted for Ayr at 52.08 but Wayne Bussie's second equalised for the visitors and sent the game into a scoreless overtime.



Enter Botham, exit Batman... retired miracle-worker holds forth before seeking further wonders on England's behalf

Botham the motivator flies out

IT TOOK place, appropriately, in the Winston Churchill Suite and in English cricket's darkest hour, between the humiliation by Mashonaland and today's perils posed by Matabeleland. Ian Botham, England's new bowling coach, addressed the nation last night before jetting off to Zimbabwe to try to save a nation's honour. He took a 9.00pm flight from Gatwick but one sensed a grey suit and black cape would have done the job just as well. This was Batman from Botham City, as Peter Tinniswood would have it. Results had been bad, he conceded. "It's a good job we're not playing the Eskimos."

It's never been my style to criticise players on television. After all, no player gets out deliberately. The same thing happened in our warm-up matches when we went to Australia 10 years ago, and it turned out to be one of the most successful tours in history. It takes time to bed down and adjust. The pitches out there are more spongy and springy than the lads will be used to. And slip catching can also be a problem. "I'll have a chat with Athurs when I get there. It could be that one or two players are a bit low and need picking up. I might take them on a day off, or even fit in a bit of golf." No change there, then. He will be taking a few days off on arrival but will join up with the team in time to pre-

pare for next week's first Test against Zimbabwe. If Botham's cricket was the stuff of fiction, his off-field activities belonged to the horror genre. His involvement could turn things into something of a circus. He also has a point to prove: in 11 Tests as England captain he failed to win. If his role takes off, next season may be interesting — particularly if Graham Gooch is appointed chairman of the selectors in March. The pair do not exactly see eye to eye in the matter of match preparation. In his autobiography Gooch said: "Ian Botham's motto was 'Never come back the same day you go out.'" And, later, Gooch recalls the captain, attempted to put an end to Gooch's dawn runs. "Don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining about Ian having a few drinks and being the life and soul of the party. I've no gripes about that. But giving me that tickle off for running so much in the mornings, that was laughable. "A serious point thrown up at that incident, however, is that, as captain, Ian's lifestyle did not sit easily with setting an example to his players." Last night Botham was typically blunt on the issue. "I don't think we really need a chairman of selectors. David Lloyd and the captain have that job. At the end of the day it is the captain who has his head on the block." It could be an epic contest between the hell-raiser Botham and dawn-riser Gooch. The only problem then for a confused young England cricketer will be to get back to the hotel before Gooch starts plodding the streets.

County battling for Symonds

GLoucestershire are trying to persuade their promising young batsman Andrew Symonds to reject an invitation to play for Australia. The England batsman, who is currently playing for Gloucestershire, is being courted by the Prime Minister's XI tomorrow. Gloucestershire captain, will talk to Symonds with the aim, said August, of "explaining the benefits of staying within the English county system and playing for Gloucestershire."

SA learn that if anyone can in Kanpur, Kumble can

INDIA's leg-spinner Anil Kumble took four for 71 on a Kanpur pitch already taking spin as South Africa were dismissed for 177 yesterday in the third and deciding Test. With the medium-pace Javagal Srinath also exploiting the uneven bounce with three for 42, India led by 60 runs on first innings. The advantage was at the hands of Paul Adams, South Africa's unorthodox left-arm wrist spinner finished with six for 55, the best figures of his five-Test career, as India went to 237 all out. Later Fanie de Villiers trapped Woorkeri Raman Ihu before the close to leave India seven for one. In Faisalabad, the England-India batsmen needed the advantage to Pakistan on the second day of the opening Youth Test.

Sport in brief

Snooker Key fingers halted play for more than two hours in the German Open yesterday when the heating system failed at the venue, the British military base at Osnabrück, writes Clive Everton. Mark Williams was halfway to his 5-2 win over Ken Doherty on the first day of the world-ranking event's 16-man final phase when weather stopped a tournament for the first time since 1978 — when a leaky roof deposited Manchester rain on to the table during a World Championship quarter-final in which Alex Higgins beat Fred Davis. **Squash** Simon Parke's comeback after testicular cancer has culminated in a place in the elite PSA Super Series final, writes Richard Jago. Another surprise qualifier is the other English semi-finalist in last week's Mahindra International, Mark Calmes. That event's winner, the Scot Peter Nicol, and Chris Walker complete the home contingent for the final, probably in London in March. **Athletics** The European cross-country champion, Annemari Sandell of Finland, will run in the County Durham International on December 29, which has drawn its best women's field ever, writes Duncan Mackay. It includes Kenya's world silver medalist Rose Cheruyot and Ireland's former European champion Catharina McKiernan.

Results

Soccer PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier Division Stoke 2, Liverpool 0. Second Division Middlesbrough 1, Luton 1. League One Gillingham 1, Huddersfield 1. **AVIATION** (Gulfstream): London Luton 1, Luton 1. **BASEBALL** (MLB): Boston 1, Cleveland 0. **BASKETBALL** (NBA): Boston 1, Cleveland 0. **CRICKET** (Test): India 237, South Africa 177. **HOCKEY** (NHL): Pittsburgh 4, New York 1. **RUGBY UNION** (Six Nations): Wales 1, Ireland 0. **BASEBALL** (MLB): Boston 1, Cleveland 0. **BASKETBALL** (NBA): Boston 1, Cleveland 0. **CRICKET** (Test): India 237, South Africa 177. **HOCKEY** (NHL): Pittsburgh 4, New York 1. **RUGBY UNION** (Six Nations): Wales 1, Ireland 0.

Pools Forecast

PA CARLING PREMIERSHIP 1. Leeds v Tottenham 2. Manchester United v Arsenal 3. Liverpool v Chelsea 4. Blackburn v Manchester City 5. Newcastle v Everton 6. Aston Villa v Birmingham 7. Wimbledon v Southampton 8. Middlesbrough v Derby 9. Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest 10. Ipswich v Norwich 11. Watford v Leeds 12. Bolton v Blackburn 13. Charlton v Sheffield Wednesday 14. Reading v Wimbledon 15. Portsmouth v Southampton 16. West Ham v Arsenal 17. Luton v Ipswich 18. Derby v Manchester City 19. Manchester United v Tottenham 20. Arsenal v Liverpool 21. Tottenham v Manchester United 22. Liverpool v Chelsea 23. Chelsea v Arsenal 24. Arsenal v Tottenham 25. Tottenham v Arsenal 26. Arsenal v Tottenham 27. Tottenham v Arsenal 28. Arsenal v Tottenham 29. Tottenham v Arsenal 30. Arsenal v Tottenham

Team talk

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Arsenal	06	Ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15
Aston Villa	11	Leeds United	03	Sheffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	34	Liverpool	05	Southampton	20
Blackburn	21	Manchester City	06	Stoke City	30
Bolton	26	Man. United	02	Sunderland	37
Brentford	24	Middlesbrough	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31	Millwall	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	08	Newcastle City	16	Wolves	37
Coventry City	17	Norwich City	18	Celtic	09
Derby County	28	Nottingham Forest	13	Rangers	10
Everton	05	QPR	25		

سكرا من الامل

SportsGuardian

SOCCER



European union... Forest's Wales international Saunders involved in an arms deal with Newcastle's Frenchman Ginola at the City Ground last night PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM CHADWICK

Premiership: Nottingham Forest 0, Newcastle United 0

Newcastle draw a blank

David Lacey

BOTH Nottingham Forest and Newcastle United belied their respective league positions in a game at the City Ground last night which was notable for little except scrappy movement and missed opportunities. Forest, the bottom team before the

game, played above themselves, Newcastle, hoping to go second, again struggled to find form in what was to become their first goalless draw since April 1995. Newcastle needed a Premiership pick-me-up. In the seven weeks since they beat Manchester United 5-0 their league form had become something of an anticlimax: only one win in five games and 10 points dropped.

With Batty suspended and Asprilla injured they were always going to have to improve to some extent, although Ferdinand, recovered from a fractured cheekbone, was back in the attack after missing five matches. Not that the opposition appeared likely to give them much of an argument either way.

Off the pitch, Forest continue to be the subject of takeover discussions, on it their chances of survival in the Premiership are becoming of more interest to undertakers. They had suffered their longest run of league games without a win, 16, since before women had the vote. Two more failures and this figure would be equalled.

This game was always going to be about crosses, their quality and the effectiveness with which the defences dealt with them. In the opening minute a good, early centre from Elliott gave Forest considerable angst but Newcastle became just as flustered after Stricker had met Saunders' cross with a weak punch.

With Shearer and Ferdinand the targets, Newcastle were the more likely to prosper from any half-decent service the wings provided. Yet Forest should have gone ahead in the fifth minute after Allen outpaced Watson on the left and cut into the penalty area before crossing low. Hazard had made a stealthy run through the middle, catching the Newcastle centre-backs unawares, but with the goal gaping he shot over the bar.

As Ferdinand, having found Ginola in space, met the Frenchman's cross with a glancing header over the bar, it looked as if Forest would soon rue that missed opportunity. Yet Newcastle's passing took a while longer to find its usual fluency. Shearer hardly

got the ball during the opening half-hour, although Crossley was glad enough to fist the ball off his eyebrows after Ginola's centre had swung towards the England striker in the 26th minute. Forest must have suspected that they were going to achieve an unlikely victory

this was the time to strike. Wozniak's clever chip forward might have set Campbell up on the half-hour but he was not quite up to the chance. Four minutes later Lytle's centre from the right found Campbell unmarked near the six-yard line, but his header was awry.

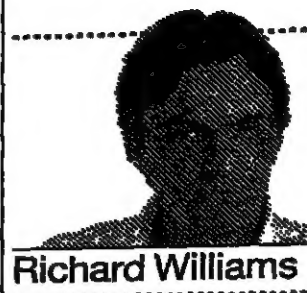
Nottingham Forest reached half-time in a slightly happier frame of mind. Cooper and Chettle had coped well with Shearer and Ferdinand, and the better chances had come Forest's way.

The last of these had fallen to Wozniak in the 41st minute, following a mix-up between Stricker and Albert, but he lobbed the ball wide. Even then Newcastle could have grabbed the lead, but Ferdinand's close-range shot was too high. Twenty seconds into the second half, Watson met a ball from Cooper with a panicky header straight into the path of Saunders, who was through on goal with the defence helpless. Only the ball's bobbles saved Newcastle.

Saunders making contact with shin rather than foot and giving Stricker a simple save. Yet another miss, but Forest still took heart from this further evidence of Newcastle's lingering frailties at the back. For sides in Forest's position, however, hearts are made to be broken and as Crossley blocked shots from Ginola and Shearer Newcastle began to look something more like their usual selves.

Northampton Forest: Crossley; Lytle, Cooper, Chettle, Pearson, Hazard, Phillips, Wozniak, Allen, Saunders, Campbell. Newcastle United: Stricker; Watson, Ferdinand, Albert, Elliott, Gillespie, Lee, Shearer, Ginola, Shearer, Ferdinand, Shearer, D. Elliott (Harrows-on-the-Hill).

No sympathy vote for coach Rowell



Richard Williams

FROM a distance at least, Jack Rowell is not the easiest of men with whom to empathise in moments of trial and tribulation. There is a harshness in his public manner that shades readily into something like arrogance, making him a natural target for *schadenfreude* rather than sympathy when things go wrong for England's rugby team.

In bad times, his management style seems to draw unnecessary attention to itself. This is partly because he is, physically, a big man and hard to ignore on the training ground or in the grandstand. His presence is lofty, intense and critical. Whether he intends it or not, the impression is always given that the team is his creation, playing in his looming shadow.

It says something about his stewardship of England that, even after 2½ years and an awful lot of matches, his team changes frequently provoke a reflex wince rather than an automatic nod of approval. So his selection of Jeremy Guscott to play out of position on the wing for Saturday's match against Argentina, thus postponing the choice between Guscott and Will Carling, looks like a rather contemptible compromise rather than an inspiration, while picking Nick Seal to replace the injured Tim Stimpson at full-back provokes negative thoughts about the fates of Jonathan Callard and poor, forgotten Paul Hull.

Contrasting not merely the ability of their players to think with the ball in their hands but the belief that even the top sides must remain mindful of the requirements of evolution and transition. These three tenets have reminded us what an incomparably better game rugby union is now than it was before the agonising process of modernisation began. And along with their familiar stars — the Fitzpatricks, Campesses and Westhutters — they have taken the opportunity to show us the talents of the next generation.

Watching Christian Cullen attack England 10 days ago was like seeing Diego Maradona make his Wimbledon debut. The 20-year-old New Zealand full-back gives the impression of being a talent on another level, although England's habit of giving him the ball and an acre of space to run in could hardly have been calculated to lower his self-esteem. Carlos Spencer, a year older, benefited from England's tiredness when he arrived late on to show us his tricks, but what fantastic confidence he displayed as replacement fly-half. Inside him the unsung Justin Marshall had such a wonderfully effective game that he was practically invisible.

So where, one thought, were the two chaps who played at half-back for England last year as Rowell's designated successors to Dewi Morris and Rob Andrew? What were their names again? For all their impact on international rugby this season, Dawson and Grayson might as well have been Les and Larry. What a difference Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly would make to Rowell's side. Like the New Zealand backs, the rugby league men disdain play-by-numbers running, trusting their own instincts and intuition.

THERE must be a growing suspicion that Mike Catt, who wins his 20th England cap on Saturday, is becoming rugby union's equivalent of Graeme Hick. Regarded with extreme awe when he arrived from southern Africa, and consistently devastating at club level, he now looks like a flat-track bully whose talent shrivels at the highest level of competition. Rowell coached him in his early days at Bath and presumably knows him as well as anyone. So I think we can say that a continuation of Catt's failure to impose himself in an England shirt will tell us at least as much about the coach as it does about the player.

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Emerson flies into a late tackle from Bryan Robson

EMERSON, Middlesbrough's wandering star, flew back to Bristol from Rio de Janeiro yesterday and will have talks today over his future at the club with the manager Bryan Robson.

The wayward Brazilian, who has returned late to the club three times in the past month, was to have flown into Teesside airport with his wife Andrea but they were diverted to Newcastle by fog. The 34-year-old midfielder decided to

comment as he boarded a bus to his Teesside home.

He is due to train this morning and then talk with Robson. A meeting with the chairman Steve Gibson and club officials will follow tomorrow.

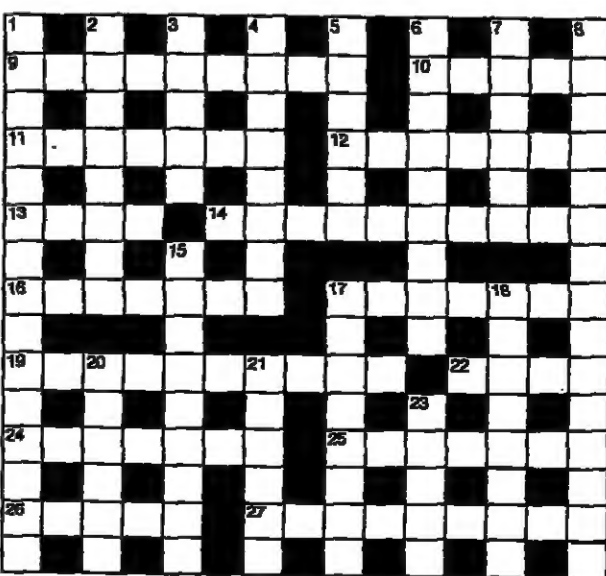
Emerson, already fined for missing a game through illness, was late back from a trip to Rio and a weekend in Portugal last month, and this time he was supposed to return a week ago but missed two Premiership games, at home to Leicester

and Leeds. He claims Andrea has been ill, delaying his return, but club officials believe he is attempting to force a £6 million transfer to Barcelona or Parma.

Middlesbrough's chief executive Keith Lamb said: "The important thing is to get him back here, then we can remind him of his obligations. He has signed a four-year contract and he must honour it. But we want conciliation, we want him to be happy here with Andrea."

Guardian Crossword No 20,832

Set by Gordius

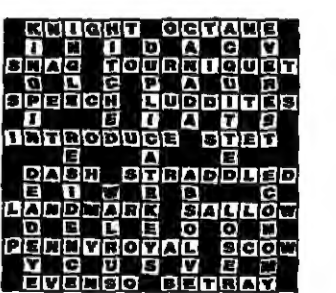


Across

- 9 Can one summon bad administration? (8)
- 10 Fill the church may be sorry about (5)
- 11 A Welshman is economical with 6, like some of these (7)
- 12 A gnatcatcher may provide revenue on the river (7)
- 13 Possible evidence of a hot temper? (4)
- 14 Deal a blow to West End sharp index with little cash (5,1,4)
- 15 Russian leader deported from Spain (7)
- 16 Richard the First in trouble with John? (7)
- 17 Mark of a greengrocer? (10)
- 22 Fever affecting half of Dutch capital (4)
- 24 One whose rank belies his situation? (7)

Down

- 1 see 6
- 2 Jack's in the drink (3)
- 3 Allow maid to brew a little tea (5)
- 4 English maid takes charge of output (8)
- 5 One doing exercise gains colour (5)
- 6 A bit of propaganda is cutting no ice over exaltitude (9)
- 7 Rogue one served with pub food (5)
- 8,1 The way to wipe a grin off Blair first (5,3,4,2,5,4)
- 15 Hellish propaganda makes you crazy (9)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,831
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are John A. Lake of West Ferry, Dundee, Angus; Graham of Worthing, Sussex; K.W.J. Barnham of Dorking, Ken; Brown of Sharn Hall, York; and Caroline Lancaster of Milton Keynes.

- 17 Both him and myself swallowed up by monster (8)
- 18 Drunk said to have travelled on the carriage way (8)
- 20 Nothing on the organ can be musical (5)
- 21 State or say on (6)
- 23 Present array of endless wonder (5)

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Peter Preston

Real Lives G2 page 7

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